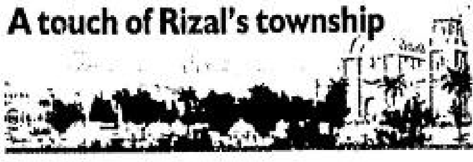
Real Estate/ B4

A touch of Rizal's township



News / A2

UP standards challenged

Business/ B1

Peso closes at 56.22

Tanong ng Bayan/ A14

Niluluto ba ang mga survey?

NGAYONG ALAS-10 NG GABI

Entertainment/ A23

The babe from Bicol returns

Multi-awarded writer Nolledo dies in US; 71

NOLLEDO

WILFRIDO D. Nolledo, one of the most influential prose writers of his generation, died of pancreatic cancer on March 6 at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Panorama City in California. He was 71.

MULTI-AWARDED/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Training of 6 Indon militants in RP probed

SECURITY officials yesterday said they were investigating whether Moro rebels in Mindanao had provided training for six Indonesian militants who were reportedly arrested in neighboring Malaysia.

The Indonesians were arrested two months ago in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state after allegedly training in a Jemaah Islamiyah camp

TRAINING / A5

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, March 9, 2004 ★★ 40 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 92 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Erap's jail guards axed

Excursions into villa not authorized, says Sandiganbayan

By Christian V. Esguerra, Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Labog-Javellana

FIFTEEN members of a police unit guarding deposed President Joseph Estrada were relieved yesterday for allegedly allowing him to spend time at his villa across from an Army camp in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained.

Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. announced the relief of the guards as the Sandiganbayan declared as unlawful the arrangement that enabled Estrada to leave his detention cell to enjoy "house arrest" at his villa on his 15-hectare estate, some 100 meters from Camp Capinpin.

"The justices of the special division were surprised when they heard about this because they had not issued any authority for him to be transferred to his rest house," Renato Bocar, the anti-graft court's first division spokesperson, said.

Bocar said those found guilty of "violating an existing order of the Sandiganbayan" for Estrada to be held at Camp Capinpin could be imprisoned for six months or fined P30,000.

He said the court decided on its own to issue a "show cause order for them (the PNP) to explain why they should not be cited in contempt of court for these incidents."

"We will require Ebdane and (Chief Supt. Rolando) Sacramento to explain (in court on Wednesday) whether there is truth to reports that Estrada was allowed to leave jail," Bocar said. Sacramento is the head of the Police Security and Protection Office.

Before he appears at the Sandiganbayan, Ebdane has ordered an investigation into reports that Estrada had been allowed to stay at his villa.

"What must now be determined is whether there was abuse by the custodial force in the exercise of its jurisdiction to reasonably regulate the disposition of the detainee," he said.

If found guilty, Supt. Mechor Ysulat, head of the sacked custodi-

ERAP'S/ A14

ERIK ARAZAS

IN A Lenten mood, women members of the militant Partido ng Manggagawa carry crosses on their way to Mendiola to call for women's emancipation on the occasion of International Women's Day.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Stiffer penalties for men who abuse wives

TOOTS SUBEANO/PIA NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

WOMEN advocates from 12 Asian countries forge a common fight against the exploitation of women and indigenous peoples in a forum held in Baguio City.

THE NATIONWIDE celebration of the 94th International Women's Day yesterday brought one tired question to the fore: Are men and women really equal under Philippine law?

The tired answer: We're getting there.

As members of the leftist women's group Gabriela held simultaneous rallies all over Luzon and the Visayas, President Macapagal-Arroyo, the country's second woman head of state, signed a law increasing the penalties for men who abuse their wives and children.

Speaking at a special event marking the global event, Ms Macapagal thanked lawmakers and "all the women gathered here," at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City, for their work in

STIFFER/ A14

Opposition slams GMA on transition gov't plan

THE OPPOSITION yesterday dismissed as an election gimmick President Macapagal-Arroyo's offer to serve as a "transition president" if given a new six-year term in the May 10 elections to pave the way for the country's shift to a parliamentary form and federal system of government.

The President's supporters, however, hailed her offer to step down in the middle of a new term.

In a dinner meeting with INQUIRER executives, editors and reporters last week, Ms Macapagal said she was willing to serve only half of her new six-year term and bring about a shift to a parliamentary form and federal type of government during her next term. She also vowed to support such a Charter change through a constitutional convention.

The opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, however, said Ms Macapagal's offer was a desperate attempt to maintain her grip on power beyond June 30.

"GMA's constitutional convention proposal is pure hot air. She's making it appear that she's willing to let go of power while her actions say she will do everything to hang on to power," said Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who is seeking reelection under the ticket of Fernando Poe Jr. and Loren Legarda.

Pimentel said Ms Macapagal's pronouncement was "designed to capture the votes of those who feel that the Constitution has to be amended to pave the way for the adoption of a parliamentary form of government."

"This is a desperate move and one sure sign that she's willing to embrace any issue just to (get the) people to vote for her," he said.

Pimentel, who has been pushing for a shift to a federal type of government, said he found it strange that the President would suddenly support Charter change after tak-

OPPOSITION/ A14

Lacson says unification with Poe no longer possible

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

CEBU CITY—Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday that he did not see his camp unifying with that of actor Fernando Poe Jr. because they were better off going their separate ways.

"I don't see unification as possible right now," Lacson said in response to questions on whether he would give way to Poe in a united opposition ticket.

"*Ako pa*? (Who, me?) I've been offered reimbursements (of my campaign costs) by someone close to FPJ and I told them I don't deal in concessions and reimbursements," the senator said.

But sources from the two rival opposition camps said the Iglesia ni Cristo had taken the initiative to unify the camps of the two presidential candidates.

"The INC is brokering talks," said a source from the Lacson camp. Asked if the Lacson group remained open to unification, the source said: "Why not if there are other forces working at it."

In a separate interview, a source from the Poe campaign team said the INC started the ball rolling for unification after the Supreme Court ruled last week that Poe was a natural-born Filipino and could run for president.

Lacson said he was no longer looking forward to the scheduled unification talks between him and Poe, standard-bearer of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

"After the Supreme Court decided (favorably for Poe) in his disqualification case, I've seen how high-handed his handlers were. Sen. (Vicente) Sotto said Fernando Poe is capable of winning even without me," Lacson said at a news conference.

"So what's the use? Let's forget about the unification talks," said Lacson on the first day of his campaign sortie in Cebu, which adopted him as its son after he served as Cebu Metropolitan District

LACSON/ A4

Villanueva, Lacson cool to Roco coalition bid

By Blanche S. Rivera, TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

EVANGELIST Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday doused cold water on a proposal by former Education Secretary Raul Roco for the three of them to form a coalition for the May 10 presidential election.

During a weekend sortie in Pangasinan, Roco said his camp had initiated talks with those of Lacson and Villanueva on the possibility of combining their forces based on a platform of fighting corruption and incompetence in government.

Such a coalition, according to the former senator, would give voters "clear options." Various surveys indicated Roco, Lacson and Villanueva were lagging behind President Macapagal-Arroyo and actor Fernando Poe Jr., the two frontrunners in the presidential race.

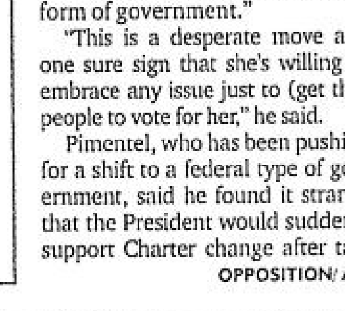
"Everything is possible … We're looking forward to the possibility of reaching a consensus and we look forward to the possibility of sitting down with Brother Eddie and Ping Lacson," Roco told reporters at the home of Mayor Dionisio Lagmay in Sison town.

"A coalition government formed to fight incompetence and corruption is a genuine possibility. If it can be bonded together, even now, then it will be good for the country," the standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-asa said.

But Villanueva, leader of the Jesus Is Lord Movement and standard-bearer of the Bangon Pilipinas Movement for National Renewal, ruled out a coalition if it would force him to give up his presidential bid.

"If they will slide to vice president, it (coalition) is possible," he said in Puerto Princesa City where he attended the 16th anniversary celebration of the JIL chapter in Palawan.

VILLANUEVA/ A4



MAG DEBATE NA RIN PATI MGA ANAK NILA

Bro. Eddie's wife takes on debate dare

By Blanche S. Rivera

NO FIGHTING and no mudslinging. In short, strictly professional.

That's how Adoracion Villanueva or Sister Dory, wife of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, wants it for the proposed debates among the spouses of presidential candidates.

Presidential candidate Raul Roco suggested the debates on Sunday, saying the views of the spouses of

BRO. EDDIE'S/ A14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/09/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Only 2 more bodies recovered

Heavy debris in ship hampering operations

By Leila B. Salaverria

ONLY TWO more bodies were recovered from the wreckage of SuperFerry 14 yesterday, according to the Philippine Coast Guard.

PCG Commodore Wilfredo Tamayo said the bodies were found on the A-deck but it could not be immediately determined if they were male or female.

This brought to 22 the number of bodies recovered so far from the ferry that was destroyed by fire on Feb. 27 as it sailed out of Manila Bay on its way to Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro cities. Some 112 passengers remained missing in the incident that was preceded by an explosion, the PCG said.

Over the weekend, five bodies were recovered as searchers fought the stench and heat in the submerged ferry's hull to hunt for more of the missing.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo said there was still a lot of debris under which more bodies could be buried.

The 10,192-ton ship had carried 899 passengers and crew.

Meanwhile, rescuers themselves were not spared from injury when eight of them were hurt on Sunday after a huge wave slammed into their boat on their way back to Manila.

Two of the rescuers from the Makati Rescue team suffered serious injuries when they were thrown against a post in the BRP Davao del Norte. They were identified as Edwin Baragas, 27, and Alvin Aroza, 28.

Six other men belonging to the Bureau of Fire Protection and the National Disaster Coordinating Council suffered bruises and scratches. They were Redmars Gamboa, 28; Charnel Bagueno, 28; Reynold Salavador Jr., 32; Romeo Borja, 27; Jefferson Robles, 31, and Manuel Sevilla, 31.

The eight—whose job it was to rappel into the ferry to search for and retrieve bodies—had just left Mariveles, Bataan, when the incident happened at 6:40 p.m. near Corregidor Island.

Balilo said that while the men were resting on the BRP Davao del Norte, a big wave hit the side of the boat throwing the men from their bunks.

Upon arriving at PCG headquarters, the eight were treated at the Coast Guard dispensary before Baragas and Aroza were brought to the Makati Medical Center.

Also yesterday, Tamayo told the INQUIRER that salvage crews were already at work removing the fuel tanks of the ferry to prevent oil leaks that could wreak havoc on the ecology of the surrounding area. He said marine environment personnel were also on hand to observe the tanks' removal.

He said that retrieval personnel were also planning to either widen the two holes they had bored into the ship's side or create another one to make the recovery of bodies easier.

The Abu Sayyaf terror group had earlier claimed responsibility for the tragedy, saying that a member had planted the bomb that ignited the deadly fire. Authorities, however, were quick to rule out sabotage as the cause of the blaze, saying they had found no evidence of a bomb. *With an AFP report*

Search still on for missing Pinoys

NORFOLK, Virginia—Air, surface and undersea efforts will escalate this week to locate 18 missing crewmen and recover fuel from the 171-meter tanker that exploded and sank off the Virginia coast, company officials said.

The Coast Guard decided to abandon the search one week ago and focus efforts on controlling pollution and investigating the cause of the Feb. 28 explosion on the Bow Mariner. The missing crewmen, most of them Filipinos or Greek, were given little chance of surviving more than a few hours in the frigid waters. Three crewman have been confirmed dead.

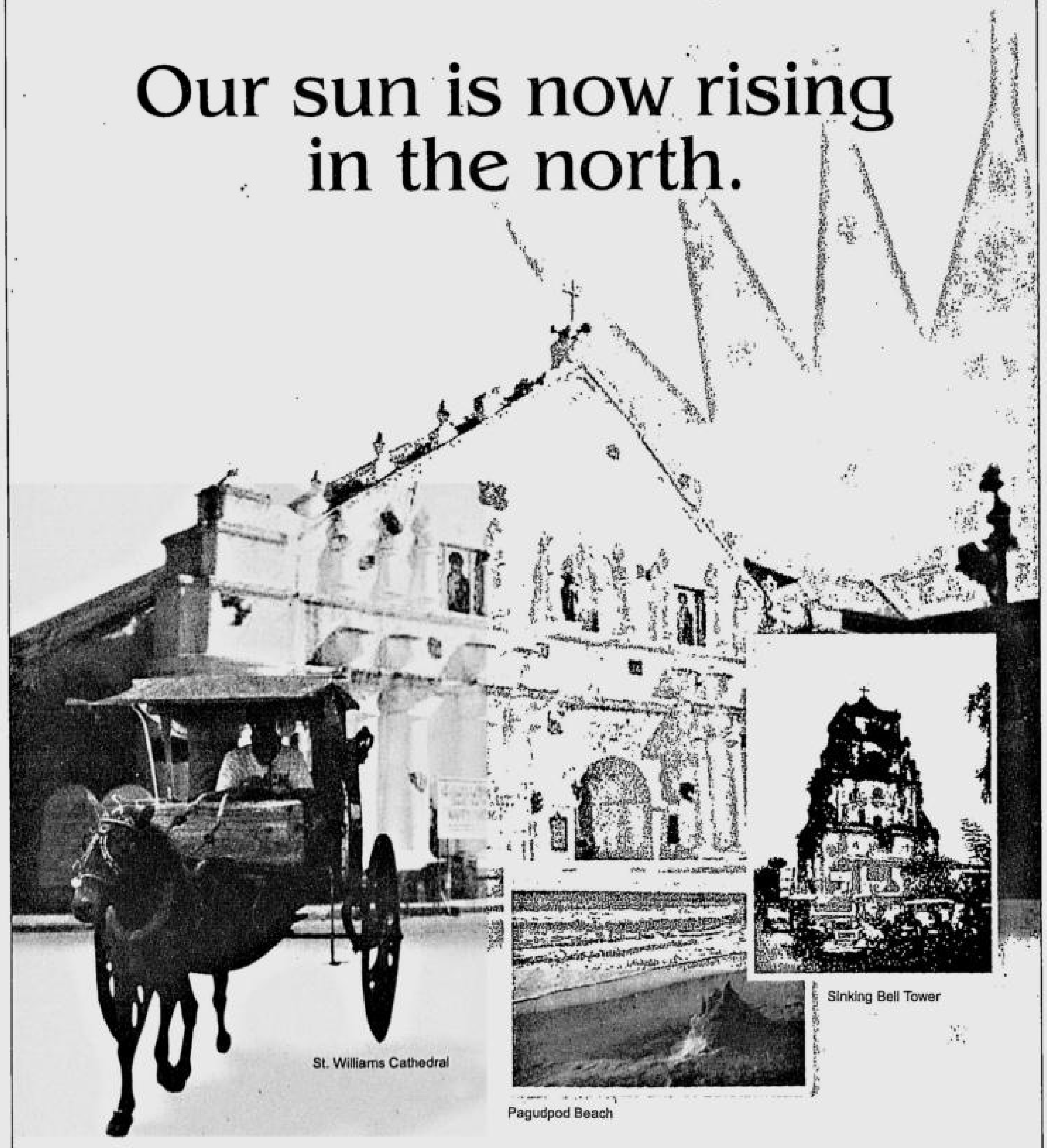
Ceres Hellenic Shipping Enterprises, managers of the tanker, is bringing in a diving support vessel that will be the working platform for the salvage operation and an offshore supply vessel that will use a remotely operated vehicle to survey the tanker on the ocean floor, said Capt. Michael Shuker, director of Ceres' safety, security and compliance division.

The vehicle can take still and video photography and has the ability to manipulate objects on the seabed. Depending on the size of the opening, it also can be steered inside the vessel.

The Bow Mariner was carrying 3.4 million gallons of ethanol, a highly flammable, colorless alcohol used in manufacturing. It was unclear how much of the fuel spilled into the ocean, but a spokesman for the Bow Mariner said "tens of thousands of barrels" remain within the tanker.

The Coast Guard has said the substance would largely dissipate at sea with minor environmental impact and has continued to monitor the seas for signs of pollution. *AP*

Our sun is now rising in the north.



Manila-Laoag-Manila four flights weekly

Welcome to Laoag. The Sunshine City of Ilocos Norte. The gateway to the historic north where centuries-old churches and cathedrals still toll their bells to greet the sunrise. A window to a breathtaking landscape that stretches from desert dunes to sun-soaked beaches. Experience it all as Philippine Airlines takes you there in business class comfort on its Airbus A320 jets.

Philippine Airlines. Flying you to Laoag,
and through the corridors of time and history, four flights weekly.

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com

For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL reservations (02) 855-8888.
Visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office / travel agent or log on to www philippineairlines com

I have uncovered 'electronic trail' in Campos slay – Lacson

By Norman Bordadora

CEBU CITY—Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he has uncovered an electronic trail that would link members of the administration to the murder of narcotics officer Supt. John Campos in December 2002.

Lacson visited Monday with Campos' mother, Pomposa, and his brother, Sergio, in this city where the Camposes hail from.

"There are e-mail addresses they created to link me to the crime. We're waiting for the right time to come out with other details. But we have an idea who is behind the murder. Justice will be rendered to Campos' family in due time," Lacson said at a press conference here.

Lacson said the e-mail messages were meant to reinforce former narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong's allegations that he was involved in the crime.

Lacson had earlier accused Ong and former military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus of allowing themselves to be used by the administration to discredit him from the time he entered politics in 2001.

After Campos' death, Lacson recalled, Ong claimed she had intercepted messages that possibly linked the senator to a former subordinate in the Philippine National Police, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino. Aquino is in North America to which he fled after being implicated in the kidnap-murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and the latter's driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

The Campos' family marked what would have been John's 38th birthday last Sunday.

"Yesterday (Sunday) was his birthday. John would have called me. Until now we have not been given justice.

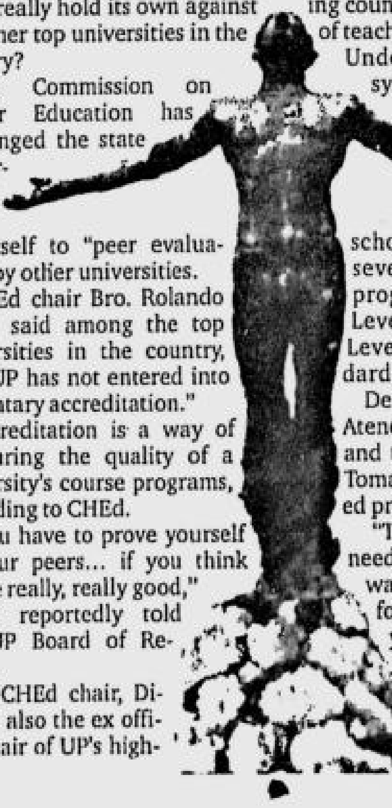
GMA owes us that, being the president and commander-in-chief. We are seeking justice for John," said the teary 67-year-old mother.

Campos was gunned down late at night in a Parañaque City eatery by unknown assailants.

Campos' mother said they've given up on obtaining justice under the present administration, while Sergio Campos believes Lacson was not involved in the killing of his brother but other military and police personalities may have been.

UP dared to submit to 'peer evaluation'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan



CAN the University of the Philippines really hold its own against the other top universities in the country?

The Commission on Higher Education has challenged the state university to submit itself to "peer evaluation" by other universities.

CHEd chair Bro. Rolando Dizon said among the top universities in the country, only UP has not entered into "voluntary accreditation."

Accreditation is a way of measuring the quality of a university's course programs, according to CHEd.

"You have to prove yourself to your peers... if you think you're really, really good," Dizon reportedly told the UP Board of Regents.

As CHEd chair, Dizon is also the ex officio chair of UP's highest policy-making body.

Dizon noted how UP has fallen behind universities in neighboring countries in terms of quality of teaching.

Under the accreditation system, a school's program is evaluated by a team of educators from other schools. Over a period of several years, a course program can aspire from Level 1, which is basic, to Level 4, the highest standard.

De La Salle University, Ateneo De Manila University and the University of Santo Tomas have several accredited programs. UP has none.

"They think they don't need it," said Dizon, who was La Salle president before he joined CHEd two years ago.

Dizon said UP's College of Medicine has promised to submit itself for accreditation.

REASON TO SMILE
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo finds yet another reason to flash her new, improved smile, in the company of staunch supporters on Sunday. She is flanked by Speaker Jose de Venecia and Rep. Mark Cojuangco of Pangasinan's 5th District during the opening of the Ilocos Region Athletic meet at the Urdaneta National High School in Urdaneta, Pangasinan. At right, her attention perhaps pulled by a less cheerful concern, is the Speaker's wife, Gina de Venecia.

Disqualification case vs Gil up at Comelec

2 birth dates, 2 birth places

By Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Eddie Gil, considered by some to be a "nuisance" candidate, is in danger of being disqualified.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos said yesterday the commission en banc had started preliminary discussions on the case of Gil while another Comelec official said that he expects the commission to come out with a decision this week.

The move came in the wake of a recent revelation alleging that Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa candidate Gil had listed different birth dates in his certificates of candidacy which he filed in the 2001 and 2004 elections.

The allegation of Gil's different birth dates was contained in the program Probe, which aired on Saturday in Channel 5.

According to a newspaper report which came out yesterday about the program, Probe learned that Gil has no birth certificate at the National Statistics Office and that in the certificate of candidacy that he filed when he ran for senator in 2001, he wrote that he was born in Masbate on Feb. 7, 1944.

"We'll get a copy of that documentary where he was interviewed which we would also consider in going over his certificate of candidacy,"Abalos said when asked to comment about the program.

The review of Gil's candidacy was first announced by Abalos a week ago after three members of PIBID's senatorial slate withdrew from the ticket .

The exodus of the three candidates—actress Pilar Pilapil, former Sen. Eddie Ilarde and businessman Jose Floro Crisologo— came in the wake of reports that Gil, who had promised to pay off the country's debts if he wins the elections, and his party failed to settle their bills during a campaign sortie in Mindanao.

One of them, former Sen. Eddie Ilarde, alleged that it had no campaign manager, no meaningful schedule of campaign and does not even have handbills or posters.

Abalos noted that it could mean that Gil had no capacity to wage a national campaign.

Bangon pilipinas

Gil's candidacy is being formally opposed in the Comelec by the Bangon Pilipinas party of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

In the disqualification case filed by Bangon Pilipinas lawyers, it was alleged that Gil had actually filed a certificate of candidacy where he listed his sex as "Filipino."

A check of Gil's certificate showed that the typewritten entry was indeed in the certificate although the word "male" was later substituted using a ball pen.

Gil had also listed down his spouse's maiden name as Erlinda Gil, left a blank entry for his precinct, wrote "businessmen" as occupation and did not even have a cedula when the certificate was filed.

Aside from this, the Villanueva camp revealed that the candidate has been the subject of complaints, some of which had reached the courts.

Efforts to contact PIBID's executive director, Manuel Santos, to get his side yesterday failed.

But in an earlier interview, Santos expressed confidence that Gil would not be disqualified as he has the capacity to wage a nationwide campaign.

Erratum

Jordan Pizarras is the lawyer of Bangon Pilipinas who is handling the party's petition to disqualify Eddie Gil from the presidential race.

The second paragraph of the p. 5 story on PDI's March 8 issue should have read Jordan Pizarras who is working on the disqualification case against Gil...

Reject inept, corrupt bets, Roco tells Pangasinan studes

By TJ Burgonio

SAN CARLOS CITY, Pangasinan—Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard bearer Raul Roco yesterday visited a university in the city, urging the students to junk the inexperienced candidates.

The city is perceived as a bailiwick of Fernando Poe Jr., whose grandfather lived in Barangay Caoayan Kiling, according to residents here.

"We should not vote for the corrupt and the inexperienced," Roco told a crowd of students of the Virgen Milagrosa University, referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Poe.

"What will happen to the country if FPJ wins?" he added even as he offered himself as a better alternative, claiming that he has not been tainted with graft during his stint as a congressman, senator and education secretary.

A group of male students said that they would vote for Poe because "this is his country."

A male instructor at the university's engineering department, however, said that the awareness of students on Poe's lack of experience to run the country was very high.

"I think the students as well as the educators here would go for Roco," he said, but asked not to be named. "Only the old people would vote for Poe."

Ms Macapagal also traces her roots to this city. Her grandmother lived in Barangay Giliw, which lies next to Caoayan Kiling.

Roco and his ticket made their last stop at the university on the second and final day of their campaign sortie in the province.

Loren says she's winning

By Carlito Pablo

OPPOSITION vice presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda isn't bothered by mainstream survey results which showed that she is lagging behind administration candidate and former ABS-CBN colleague Sen. Noli de Castro.

What matters are the "real surveys on the ground," she said.

The Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino conducted its own internal surveys which showed that "we are both winners," Legarda said, referring to herself and opposition standard bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

Without naming any survey firm, she said that the key to analyzing results is to find out "who paid for the surveys."

"Who is behind the survey?" she pointed out and told reporters to look deeper into survey results.

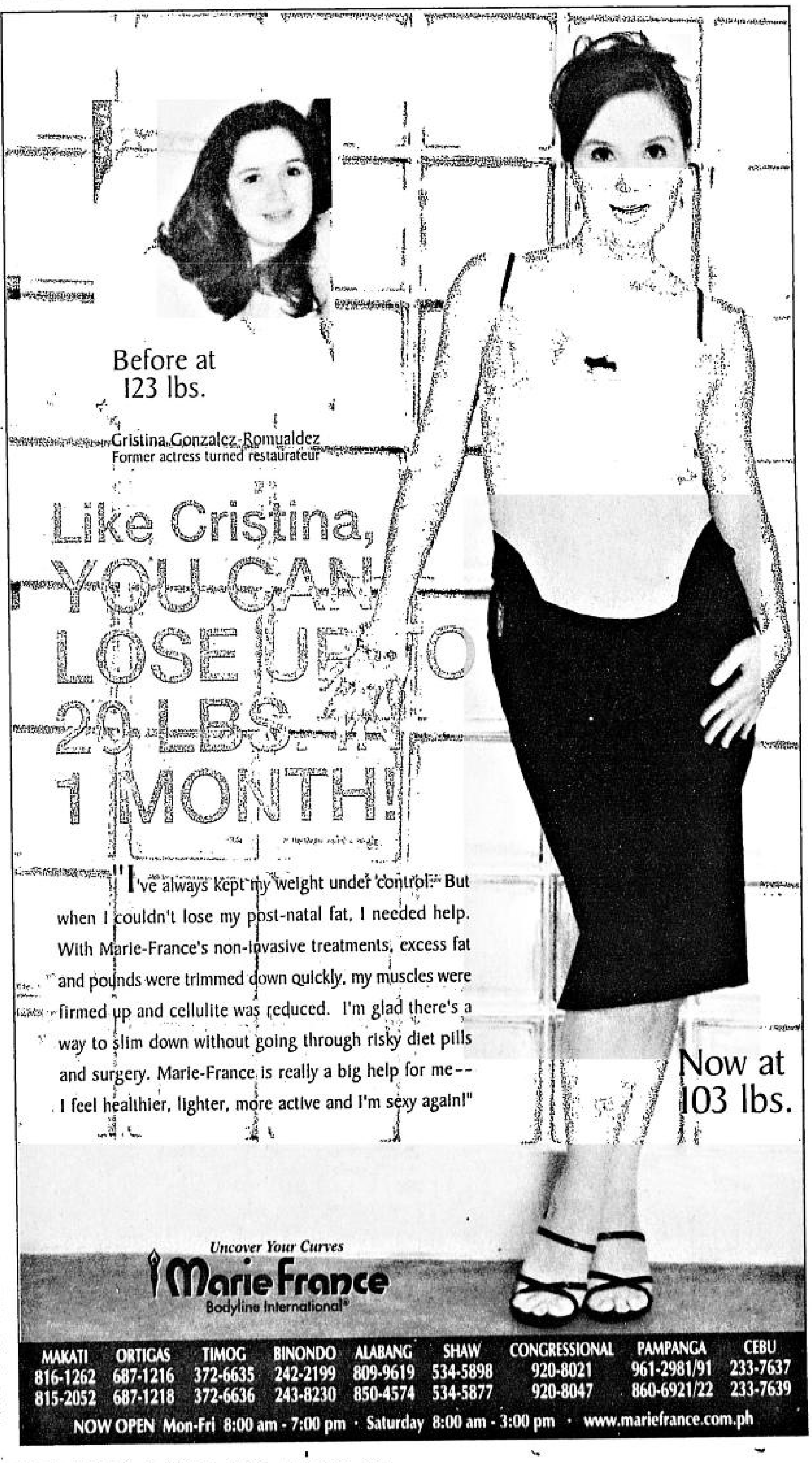
Legarda had earlier challenged her vice presidential rivals to a debate.

De Castro had supposedly accepted the challenge but Legarda said, "Apparently he (De Castro) doesn't want" to debate.

Asked if there are preparations being made for a debate by vice presidential wannabes, Legarda said, "It looks like there's nothing yet."

"I am ready anytime, anywhere," said Legarda, who like De Castro, was a former newsreader at ABS-CBN.

United Auctioneers, Inc.
TRUCKS, VANS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT
PUBLIC AUCTION
MARCH 18, 19 & 20, 2004
Sale starts at 8:30 AM SHARP!
Catch The Best At
SUBIC BAY
PHILIPPINES
INSPECTION DATES: MARCH 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2004
REGISTRATION DATES: MARCH 14 TO 20, 2004
ISUZU NKR WING VAN
40 WING VANS
40 PAYLOADERS
TCM 50B
10 GRADERS
MITSUBISHI MG3H
50 EXCAVATORS
KOMATSU PC60
10 SELF LOADERS
FUSO 12W SELF LOADER TRUCK
20 TRACTOR HEADS
ISUZU 10W TRACTOR HEAD
5 FIRE TRUCKS
FUSO FIGHTER FIRE TRUCK
ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE
15 GARBAGE TRUCKS
ISUZU NKR GARBAGE TRUCK
SUZUKI ESCUDO
MITSUBISHI SPACE GEAR 4X4
SUBIC BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES TEL NOS: (047) 252-1129 • 252-1155 to 58 FAX NO: (047) 252-5569
MANILA TEL NOS: (02) 9297868 • 9205501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470 / 74
FAX NO: (02) 929-0260 E-MAIL: info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.com



Before at
123 lbs.
Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez
Former actress turned restaurateur
Like Cristina,
YOU CAN
LOSE UP TO
20 LBS. A
1 MONTH!
"I've always kept my weight under control. But when I couldn't lose my post-natal fat, I needed help. With Marie-France's non-invasive treatments, excess fat and pounds were trimmed down quickly, my muscles were firmed up and cellulite was reduced. I'm glad there's a way to slim down without going through risky diet pills and surgery. Marie-France is really a big help for me-- I feel healthier, lighter, more active and I'm sexy again!"
Now at
103 lbs.
Uncover Your Curves
Marie France
Bodyline International®

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	TIMOG	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1262	687-1216	372-6635	242-2199	809-9619	534-5898	920-8021	961-2981/91	233-7637
815-2052	687-1218	372-6636	243-8230	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639

NOW OPEN Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 7:00 pm · Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm · www.mariefrance.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Villanueva, Lacson cool to Roco coalition bid

From page A1

"But I will not leave my post, whether I win or lose, because I am fighting for something. This is a crusade for change, and I cannot do that if I am just vice president," Villanueva added.

He said he would need the powers of the presidency to reform what he described as the "bankrupt political system."

Villanueva said he was willing to enter into an alliance to fight electoral fraud which was what he, Roco and Lacson agreed upon during a forum sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines last month.

The evangelist said he was clueless about reports that his campaign staff had been holding talks with those of Roco and Lacson regarding the formation of a coalition to fight corruption and incompetence in government.

In Cebu City, Lacson denied reports that his camp had entered into talks with Roco and Villanueva.

No talks—Ping

"I am surprised by the reports of talks between their camp and ours. There are no such talks," Lacson said. "There were attempts to communicate but even that we have yet to answer."

Roco, who led in surveys last year, has attracted the support of about 17 percent of the electorate, while Lacson has been steady with about 10 percent. Villanueva has about 2 percent.

Roco had earlier described as "farfetched" a suggestion by Lacson's camp that he run as the latter's vice president. Supporters of Lacson likewise ruled out the idea of their candidate taking a secondary role.

Roco is seen as struggling to meet the financial demands of a long campaign. Lacson reportedly has the money but he lost his party accreditation after the Supreme Court ruled that Poe was the legitimate candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Villanueva has a lot of catching up to do, although he claims to have a solid mass base among JIL members estimated to number about 5 million.

Another presidential candidate, businessman Eddie Gil, barely registers in the surveys and has had a hard time paying his hotel bills.

Ms Macapagal, who is believed to have the biggest war chest among the candidates, and Poe, who is very popular with the masses, were way ahead in recent surveys. *With a report from Reuters*

Lacson says unification with Poe no longer possible

From page A1

Command chief for more than two years in the 1980s.

Not enthusiastic

Asked about the one-on-one meeting scheduled for April between him and Poe, Lacson said: "I am no longer enthusiastic."

The Lacson and Poe camps had looked forward to the second week of April as the scheduled deadline for conducting the unification meeting.

"In politics, one week is already a very long time. A lot of developments can happen by then," Lacson said. He earlier said he and Poe were keeping their communication lines open.

The senator assailed some of Poe's senatorial candidates for calling on him to slide down to vice president after the Supreme Court decision favoring the KNP candidate.

Lacson said he would not withdraw from the race, or even slide down as he had strong support from the electorate.

The former top police official said the feedback he received from the people during his sorties so far showed he had a good chance of winning and defying recent surveys that placed him in fourth place.

"We will only think of withdrawing if we see the support of the people diminishing," Lacson said.

LACSON

POE

Reconcile

Despite Lacson's insistence that unification moves were off, the source from the Poe camp said "the Supreme Court ruling paved the way for the entry of the INC to reconcile the two groups."

Asked why the INC, whose block vote is also being courted by President Macapagal-Arroyo, was trying to unify the opposition, the same source said: "From Day 1, the INC was not really for GMA."

Both sources from the Poe and Lacson camps strongly declined to provide details although they said the initiative had come from high up in the INC.

"We don't want anything outside the opposition to preempt this initiative," the source from the Poe camp said.

No confirmation

The INC would neither confirm nor deny that the sect was moving to unify the fragmented opposition.

INC spokesperson Bienvenido Santiago was at his office when he was sought for comment. A female aide of Santiago's, after briefly conferring with him, said: "The Iglesia is not issuing any statement."

"There are no orders for him to issue a statement," the aide said in Filipino.

But the Macapagal camp is not giving up hope that the President will eventually win the endorsement of the INC.

Jose Ma. Rufino, executive director of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, said: "If the INC loves this country, it should also consider GMA."

"Of course, we remain hopeful that the INC will not limit its choice to opposition candidates," Rufino said. "If it looks at qualifications, President Macapagal is way, way ahead of her rivals."

Command votes

According to Rufino's estimates, the INC could command anywhere between 2 million and 4 million votes.

"Nothing is sure yet whether the INC will really go opposition," said Rufino, who also serves as the political liaison officer of Ms Macapagal.

During the 1998 elections, the INC supported Joseph Estrada who emerged the landslide winner.

Asked for a statement, Poe's running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda, said "unification is always a good option."

"We shouldn't close the door to any unification," Legarda said.

Legarda, however, said she was not privy to any talks to unify the Poe and Lacson camps. But one thing was sure as far as she was concerned: "I don't think there will be changes in the (Poe) slate."

"That would not happen," Legarda said when asked if the opposition was toying with the scenario that she would back out of the vice presidential race in favor of Lacson.

Multi-awarded writer . . .

From page A1

He is survived by his wife Blanca Datuin and their children with whom he migrated to the United States over a decade ago.

"Ding" Nolledo was a much-loved and admired fiction writer, playwright and essayist whose novel "But For The Lovers" was originally published in hardcover edition by E.P. Dutton in New York in 1970, and which has gained a revival of interest since its reissue a few years ago in paperback by Dalkey Archive in Illinois.

Nolledo served as an editor, feature writer and film reviewer for the Philippine Free Press in the 1960s, working with such writers as National Artist Nick Joaquin, Gregorio Brillantes, Kerima Polotan and Jose F. Lacaba.

Awards

Also at the time, Nolledo romped off with various literary awards, such as the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, for his short stories that were distinguished by dazzling prose and virtuoso word play.

Among his classic works were the prize-winning and much-anthologized "Rice Wine," "Kayumanggi, Mon Armour," "Cadena de Amor," "Of Things Guadalupe" and "Adios, Ozymandias."

A longer work of fiction won the Roman Grand Prize for the Novel in the 1970s.

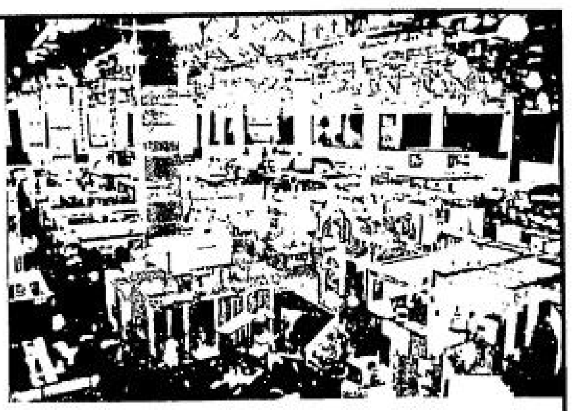
In 2001, Nolledo was among the distinguished Bedan of the Century awardees for his lifetime achievement in literature.

Other distinctions included a TOYM Award for Literature in 1963, the Cultural Award for Drama from the City of Manila, the Gawad Balagtas Award from UMPIL or Writers Union of the Philippines, a Great Achiever in California award for "a distinguished career in literary writing, and for the pride he has bestowed on the Filipino People through recognition given him by American publishers and readers."

Last novel

Nolledo was working on a novel before his death. UST Publishing House had been planning to issue an anthology of his short stories under the editorship of Magsaysay Awardee for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, while Anvil Publishing Inc. was also reportedly negotiating with the author for another anthology.

Friends and relatives in Manila who would like to extend their sympathies to his family may send these by mail to 9800 Vesper Ave. #170, Panorama City, CA 91402, USA, by e-mail at bnolledo@juno.com or by calling the Nolledo residence at (818) 894-1456 or cell phone numbers (818) 472-4467 and (541) 913-1965



THE ULTIMATE & THE LARGEST

WORLDBEX

The 9th Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition 2004

Be **AN EXHIBITOR** of the ultimate international trade show of the building and construction industry.

16-20 March 2004
TUESDAY - SATURDAY

World Trade Center Metro Manila
&
Philippine Trade Training Center

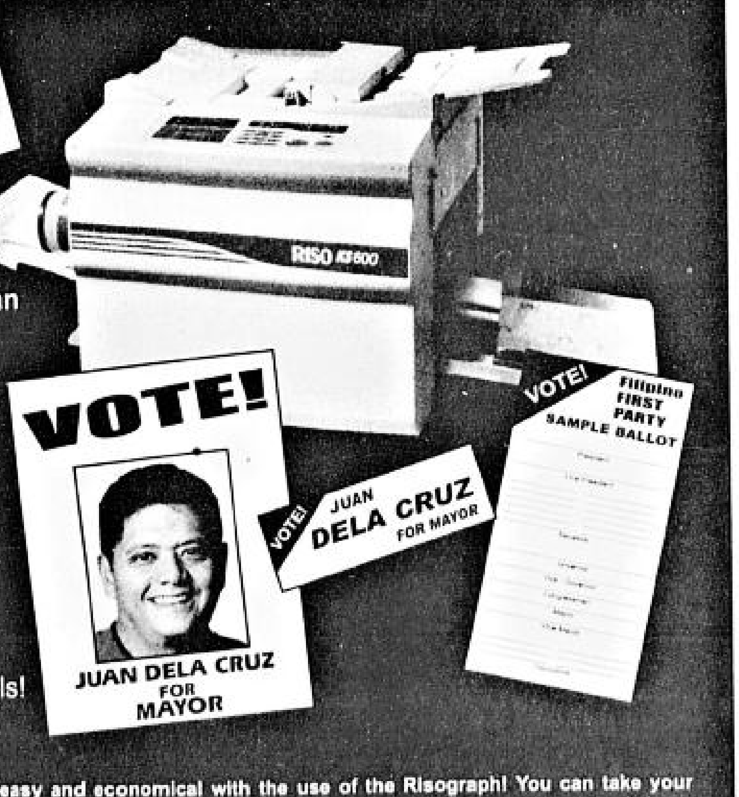
www.worldbex.com

The largest trade show of its kind in the Philippines, with over 500 exhibitors and 40,000 expected visitors. Featuring the most comprehensive gathering of building and construction materials, products and services from around the world, in more than 8,000 square meters exhibition space.

The world's finest in building and construction converge at the most awaited learning event of the year.

The 6Th Worldbex **Seminars**
March 17-18, 2004

Philippine Trade Training Center Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Manila, Philippines



THE ULTIMATE
CAMPAIGN
MACHINE

AS LOW AS ₱87,000

With the RISOGRAPH, you can instantly print your own:

- ☑ Sample ballots
- ☑ Posters
- ☑ Leaflets
- ☑ Programs
- ☑ Handouts
- ☑ Inserts
- ☑ Candidate's Resumé
- ☑ Membership Forms
- ☑ and other campaign materials!

Executing your campaign is made fast, easy and economical with the use of the Risograph! You can take your campaign anywhere because the Riso is compact and movable. No special skills are required because it is as easy to use as a copier. You can pay for your Risograph investment with the savings you get from using it.

So, start off that campaign and experience the power of using the Risograph. Truly, *Riso is your ultimate campaign machine!*

COPYLANDIA
OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Advanced Copying & Printing Solutions

RISO
Super Digital Duplicators

With the widest network of branches to serve you:

METRO MANILA
Call 7476-888
Main Office/Showroom:
COPYLANDIA CORPORATE CENTER
718 Bumatay Street
(near City Hall) Mandaluyong City

LUZON		VISAYAS		MINDANAO	
Angeles	(045) 887-2499	Bacolod	(034) 435-0193	Butuan	(085) 342-5321
Baguio	(074) 446-5356	Cebu	(032) 232-4520	Cagayan de Oro	(088) 857-4272
Dagupan	(075) 515-3306	Dumaguete	(035) 225-4759	Davao	(082) 224-0793
Lipa	(043) 757-0235	Iloilo	(033) 320-8063	Iligan	(063) 221-3713
Los Baños	(049) 536-5458	Tacloban	(053) 321-7611	Zamboanga	(062) 991-2446
Naga	(054) 473-4936	Tagbilaran	(038) 411-2396		

website: www.copylandia.com

6 Abu Sayyaf bandits slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Six Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed while five government soldiers were wounded in an eight-hour encounter in the villages of Bon-bon and Pansul in Patikul, Sulu, belated military reports said.

Brig. General Nelson Allaga, 3rd Marine Brigade commander, said two lieutenants of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron, alias Kumander Putol, were reportedly wounded in Friday's clashes.

Allaga identified the "sub-leaders" as Murad Astig and Juhurin Hussin, who, he said, were seeking medical help from nearby communities.

He said he had also received reports that the Moro bandit group's spokesperson, Jainal Antel Sali, alias Abu Sulaiman, was among those who fled from the fighting. Late last month, Sali claimed that the burned-out SuperFerry 14 off the coast of Mariveles, Bataan, was a sabotage operation of the Abu Sayyaf.

Allaga said the retreating bandits burned a mosque that was built just recently by the Marines in Bon-bon. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Training of 6 Indon militants ...

From page A1

run by the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a senior Malaysian official said Saturday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed the arrests in Malaysia and gave an upbeat assessment of her antiterror campaign.

"There are indications that foreign terrorists who once sought refuge here have already started to leave the country with the strict antiterrorism drive we are implementing," the President said in a statement.

"The arrests in Malaysia were made some time ago after we were also chalking up several gains versus the JI through the capture of their leaders," she said.

The Indonesians were being held under Malaysia's security laws allowing indefinite detention without trial, the Malaysian official said.

Peace talks

If true, the allegation could endanger peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF, the main Moro rebel group, which has denied links to al-Qaida-linked JI, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said.

The MILF has renounced terrorism and pledged to help the government arrest suspected terrorists. But it has been hounded by allegations of links with the JI, which reportedly seeks to transform Southeast Asia's Islamic heartland into a Muslim extremist enclave.

"We're looking at this very seriously because this will have implications on the peace process," Gonzales said. "They (MILF rebels) have even promised to help us run after lawless elements."

The Philippines is working with Malaysia to get more details on the Indonesian suspects and what they have told Malaysian investigators, Gonzales said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied his group allowed JI militants to train in rebel strongholds, and said the government was to blame if terrorists were in Mindanao.

"They may be here, but not at the pleasure of the MILF," Kabalu said. "They sneak through the southern backdoor, and whose job is it to secure these borders?"

JI presence

Gonzales said it was difficult to ascertain the extent of the JI's presence in the country, but added: "It would be frightening to assume that they're no longer around and suddenly find out otherwise."

A number of alleged JI foreign operatives have been arrested in the Philippines.

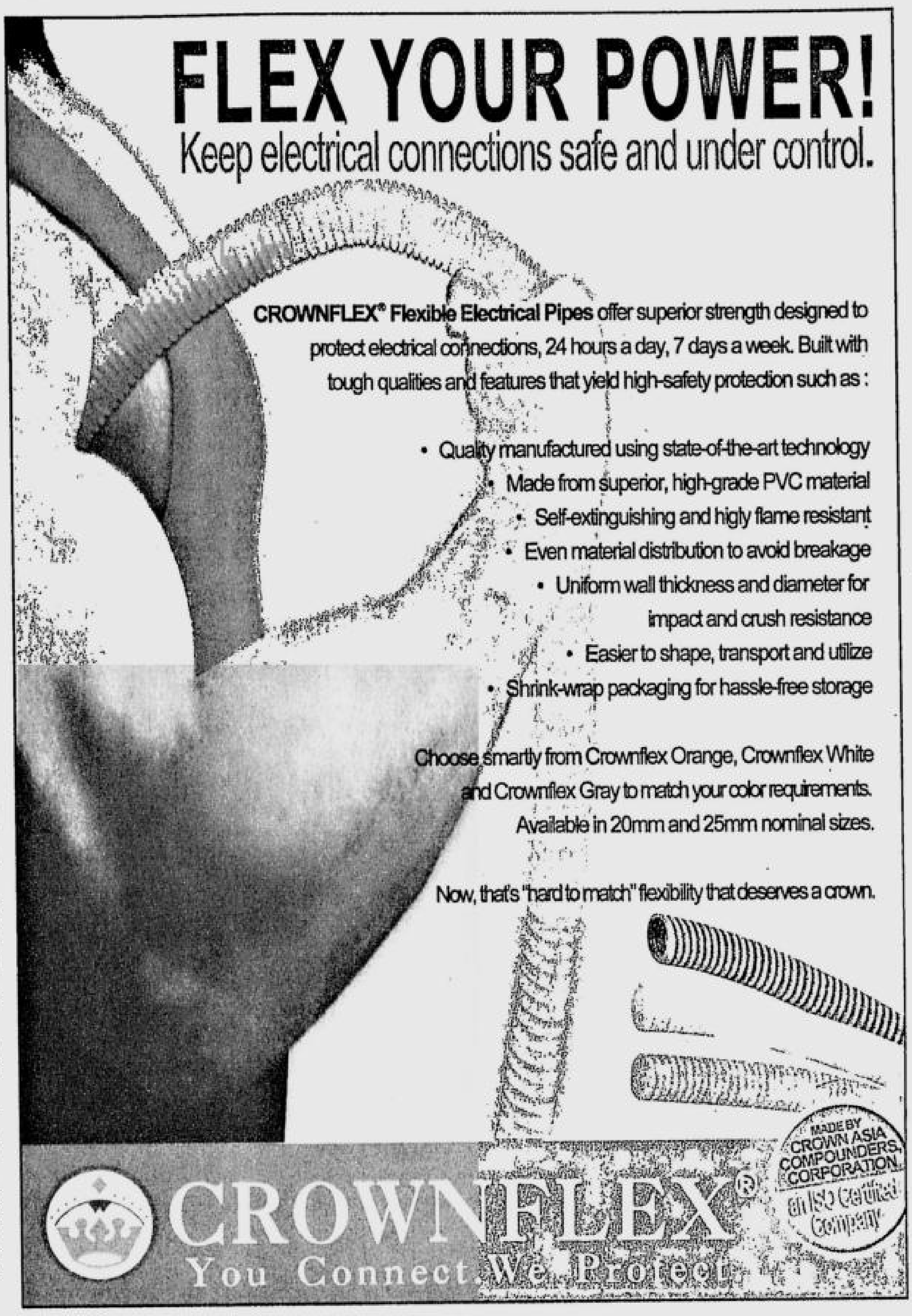
The group has been blamed for numerous attacks in Southeast Asia, including the 2002 Bali nightclub blasts that killed 202 people, and last year's bombing of the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that claimed 12 lives.

Filipino troops in Mindanao are receiving counterterrorism training from a small group of US military advisers, sent into the country after Manila agreed to join a US-led campaign against global terrorism following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington.

US intelligence help has been credited for the capture or killing of several leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

Manila is also believed to be exchanging information with Southeast Asian neighbors, including Malaysia and Indonesia, on the movement of JI operatives.

Ms Macapagal said the antiterrorism crackdown "is a transnational effort that brings Malaysia and the Philippines along a common front, and our successes can be attributed to the solidarity of the nations in the region." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. with AP, AFP reports*



FLEX YOUR POWER!
Keep electrical connections safe and under control.

CROWNFLEX® Flexible Electrical Pipes offer superior strength designed to protect electrical connections, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Built with tough qualities and features that yield high-safety protection such as :

- Quality manufactured using state-of-the-art technology
- Made from superior, high-grade PVC material
- Self-extinguishing and higly flame resistant
- Even material distribution to avoid breakage
- Uniform wall thickness and diameter for impact and crush resistance
- Easier to shape, transport and utilize
- Shrink-wrap packaging for hassle-free storage

Choose smartly from Crownflex Orange, Crownflex White and Crownflex Gray to match your color requirements. Available in 20mm and 25mm nominal sizes.

Now, that's "hard to match" flexibility that deserves a crown.

CROWNFLEX®
You Connect. We Protect.

MADE BY CROWN ASIA COMPOUNDERS CORPORATION an ISO Certified Company

SAVE UP TO P21,400
SUPER FAT BURNERS

SLIMMERS WORLD

Aerobics included.
FREE
on all programmes

P40
PER DAY on Full Enrollment

NO MONTHLY DUES.
NO JOINING FEES.

Plus 5 FREE
PERSONAL TRAINING
First 25 in each center.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS
0% INTEREST
ON DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN

FITNESS HOTLINE
887-3533
CELLPHONE
09178984744

FACE & COSMETIC CENTERS
Lose your wrinkles in 30 minutes with
BOTOX

- Ultrapeel
- Restylane
- Facial
- Body Scrub
- Laser Acne Treatment
- Laser Hair Removal
- Body Whitening
- Nutracell-Face
- Wart Removal

FREE BLEACHING CAPSULES
for all Skin Programme enrollees today.
FREE CONSULTATION
with our In-House Dermatologist.

SKIN HOTLINE 887-1331
CELLPHONE 09164099312

CALL US:
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	TRAFALGAR
Gemma/Carla 2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote Alabang Rd 809-0396	Thelma/Lhet 3F Regina Garden II 242-1312	Sherry/Bheng 6F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave. 365-7653	Riva Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254	Dulce 27F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505	Gladyvira GF Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St. 893-8934 09178516012	Daisy/Tin 6F Adriatico Square Adriatico, Manila 536-0619	Sheila/Jenny 2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869	Butchy/Eleanor 1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St. 887-1335	JC/Kaye Restaurant Ave Marcos Hi-way 681-5333	Ruth/Mitch 2F Annex Bldg. Quezon City 929-5429 09178515920	Beti 2F Times Square Rizal Hi-way 252-6514	Cher 27F Trafalgar Plaza Salcedo Village 814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732 MALATE 5259891/09209216257 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09274489544

Cop charged in Leyte mayor's slay

By Jhunnex Napallacan, *PDI Visayas Bureau* **and Christian V. Esguerra,** *in Manila*

CEBU CITY—Murder charges were filed yesterday against a rookie policeman and another man who were tagged as suspects in the killing of a Leyte town mayor and his son in this city last Thursday.

The Cebu Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau filed the complaint against PO1 Roque Visnar, 34, and Nedy Polestico, 29, before the city prosecutor's office.

At least three witnesses had identified Visnar, of the Subangdaku police force in Mandaue City, and Polestico as the ones who allegedly shot and killed Mayor Roy Jumao-as of Hindang, Leyte, and the latter's son, Jake, in front of the victims' apartment on Jakosalem Street.

A team from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the local police led by Supt. Pablo Labra II arrested the two suspects on Sunday at Visnar's house in Barangay Mojon, Talisay City.

Visnar and Polestico, both natives of Inopacan, Leyte, however, denied killing the Jumao-ases.

But after their arrest, Visnar reportedly showed police the motorcycle he and Polistico had used in the killing that he had hidden at his house.

Visnar said he was on duty in the afternoon of March 4 when the mayor and his son were killed.

Polestico, who said he was a carpenter, claimed he was doing carpentry work at the home of Visnar's uncle, also in Barangay Mojon, at the time of the killing.

Labra said Polestico had been staying at Visnar's house since he arrived from Inopacan last week.

Initial investigation showed the two were alleged henchmen of Jumao-as' political rivals. But Labra admitted they had no evidence yet to link the two to the mayor's rivals whom he refused to identify.

Jumao-as, 53, was running for reelection under the Lakas-CMD party. His rival, Elpidio Cabal Jr., Barangay Dos chair, was also running as a Lakas-CMD candidate.

Cabal denied any involvement in the killing. "My family cannot do such a brutal thing. We don't have the capacity to do that," Cabal told the INQUIRER on Friday. *With Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ilocos town councilor, village official shot dead

CABUGAO, Ilocos Sur—A councilor and a village official were shot dead by armed men in Barangay Salumague here on Saturday night.

Police identified the victims as Councilor Rodrigo Sandi and Ceasar Ramos. Sandi was running for reelection with the Lakas-CMD under incumbent Mayor Diocaesar Suero.

Suero said they were eyeing politics as the motive of the killing. "Our initial investigation showed that politics was behind the killing," he said.

He said Sandi had been receiving death threats, mostly through text messages.

Police said Sandi and Ramos, along with some companions, were on their way home from a meeting in Barangay Salumague here when armed men fired at them.

Sandi was killed instantly while Ramos died while at a local hospital on Sunday. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

13-day caravan for clean polls ends

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—It was a Mindanao-to-Luzon caravan inspired by the biblical Israelites' 40-year journey out of Egypt to the "promised land of milk and honey."

But Church lay leaders and members, who completed here on Sunday the last leg of a 13-day nationwide caravan, did not embark on the journey to escape the slavery and bondage of some pharaoh.

"This caravan was meant to strengthen bonding among members and non-members of our Church as we brace ourselves for current challenges to our faith such as the May 10 elections," said lay leader Joelibert Gargar of Cagayan de Oro City, who helped initiate the inter-island journey by land.

Gargar is the national president of the United Church Men, a lay organization of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), a Protestant Church with more than one million members nationwide.

Starting with some 170 people in 14 vehicles from Mindanao, the members of what was dubbed as "Journey for Peace and Unity" swelled to more than 600 people after they crisscrossed some Visayan islands and journeyed into Luzon.

The caravan that included over 70-year-old elders and five-year-old children reached La Trinidad Sunday after driving through the Ilocos region via Cagayan Valley.

In every stopover, caravan members would also help educate people about how to "vote responsibly" in May.

Coming in handy for the caravan leaders was a two-page statement of the UCCP Council of Bishops on the May elections, which exhorted voters to choose leaders with "genuine solidarity with the poor and the powerless."

The statement also urged voters to choose leaders, who can protect the environment, uphold justice, harness the country's economic resources primarily for the Filipinos' welfare and development. *Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, March 9, 2004
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Is 1:10, 16-20
Gospel: Mt 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees sat on the seat of Moses. So you shall do and observe all they say, but do not do as they do, for they do not do what they say. They tie up heavy burdens and load them on the shoulders of the people, but they do not even raise a finger to move them. They do everything in order to be seen by people; so they wear very wide bands of the Law around their foreheads, and robes with large tassels. They enjoy the first place at feasts and reserved seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplace and being called 'Master' by the people.

"But you, do not let yourselves be called Master because you have only one Master, and all of you are brothers and sisters. Neither should you call anyone on earth Father, because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called leader, because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great."

Commentary

When a bishop is in a procession of bishops, how does he hold his crosier? If he is in his own diocese he holds it with the crook pointing forwards, but if he is in another bishop's diocese he holds it with the crook pointing backwards! At least that is what custom dictates. Dogs do something similar with their tails when they are in or out of their own territory! There are still many such foolish rubrics and customs defacing the Church. We still cling to badges of distinction: titles, dress, rank, ceremonial. These would be just harmless foibles if there wasn't a subtext: that others are in some way less significant beings. But "you are all brothers and sisters," Jesus said.

Should we all be exactly the same then? I heard of a novice mistress long ago who was uneasy that her novices were all of different height, so she had a carpenter make boxes for the smaller ones to stand on while in choir! This is the opposite extreme. But the two extremes have this in common: that both are wasting good time on appearances; both are assaulting in some way the dignity of others; and neither is concerned with the service of their brothers and sisters.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

AD LIGHTING
METAL HALIDE FLOODLIGHT
IDEAL FOR:
○ CAMPAIGN BILLBOARDS,
○ BADMINTON COURTS,
○ STADIUM LIGHTING,
○ INDOOR LIGHTING
AVAILABLE IN 250 W AND 400 W
FOR INQUIRIES CALL:
SILICON ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.
TEL. 7338341-48 FAX. 7334887

STOP BAD BREATH NOW!
It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology. THERABREATH SYSTEM ™ a US product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue and throat, not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work.
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Call for free delivery w/in Metro Manila
890-8380;895-5632
897-2466;895-6776
0917-7965869

PACKAGE PRICE P16,500 (100% BRAND NEW)
Authorized sub-dealer:
Panasonic PABX
1 - PANASONIC MAIN PABX 3X8
8 - FREE TELEPHONE UNITS
- (6) TEL. LINES BY 16/24 LOCALS
- (12) TEL. LINES BY 64-500 LOCALS
intel Communication Corp.
752 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
733-2549 • 736-1206 • 733-0697

Do Not Despair, We Can Repair Your LAPTOPS & FAX MACHINES
• We repair all makes and models of Laptops and Notebooks.
• All repairs warranted.
• Certified and factory trained Engineers & Technicians.
BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
Quezon City • Makati • Manila
912-1077/913-5177/817-0977/536-6576

STORAGE RACKING SYSTEM
Made according to US Standards at an affordable price
Selective Racks, Drive-In Racks, Cantilever Racks, Custom-made racks, Rack-supported, Knocked-down & Structural Mezzanines, Shelvings, Hand Trucks
Call now for free design and estimate,
412-4838, 727-9490 to 91, 727-6122
METRO Structural & Industrial Steelworks
E-mail: metrorocks@mydestiny.net
Website: www.metrorocks.com

STRETCH YOUR BUYING POWER
LEASE TO OWN
FOR AS LOW AS 1,999.00 MONTHLY x 6 MONTHS
3 Direct Lines & Locals
Includes
• Brand New PABX System 3 Lines, 8 Locals
• Proprietary Telephone
• Installation (within Metro Manila)
PABX (KEY TELEPHONE SYSTEM)
STANDARD FEATURES
• INTERCOM
• CALL PICK-UP
• CALL BARRING
• DAY/NIGHT MODE
• CALL HOLD/TRANSFER
• AUTO LINE SELECTION
• NDD & IDD RESTRICTION
IDEAL FOR Small Office Home Office
EverTel EVERTEL PHILIPPINES, CORP.
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 715-7978, 715-7977 or TEXT US @ (0916)7572647 & WE WILL CALL YOU.
FREE DEMO

ROYAL TOURS

SHENZHEN 2NITE	$ 68
HK 1N+SHENZHEN 1N (PR)	$ 85
HK 1N+SHENZHEN 1N (CX)	$ 99
HONGKONG 2NITE	$ 99
HK 2N+SHENZHEN 1N	$109
HK+SHENZHEN (VIA CANTON)	$133
HK 2N+SHEN 1N+OCEAN PARK	$139
HK+SHENZHEN+MACAU	$145
BANGKOK	$198

ALSO AVAILABLE: INTERNATIONAL TICKETS, PAL DOMESTIC TICKETS, DOMESTIC TOUR PACKAGES AND PASSPORTING
Royal Vacation Holiday Travel &Tours
523 Remedios Street, Malate, Manila
Tels.: (632) 524-9971 • 521-6727 • 524-9987 Fax: (632) 521-3288

OFFICE CLUB.com THE NEW WAY TO OFFICE www.officeclub.com.ph
COMPLETE SCHOOL / OFFICE SUPPLIES, OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT.
Call for Free 48 pages Catalog

BANQUET TABLE P 1,800.00
STEEL STORAGE CABINET P 4,995.00
COMPUTER GAS LIFT P 985.00
BANKERS COPY SHORT P 120.00
4 DRAWERS W/ METAL SWING P 5,995.00
MEETING TABLE from P 2,150.00
S 50 P 3,650.00
JUMBO CASH BOX P 985.00
DESKTOP WATER DISPENSER P 2,995.00
STUDENT COMPUTER TABLE P 1,950.00
COLOR INK JET PAPER P 340.00
DATER STAMP PAID FAX RECEIVED P 30.00
GUN SAFE P 7,500.00
LOBBY CHAIR P 1,865.00
COFFEE TABLE from P 3,150.00

MANILA
344 Nueva St. Binondo Manila
Tel No 244 721 up to 15
Fax No 243 1875
E-Mail Add sales@officeclub.com.ph

MAKATI
814 A Arnaiz Ave. Makati City
Tel No 752 4378 up to 81
Fax No 752 8370
E-Mail Add oc_makati@yahoo.com

SAN JUAN
55 Annapolis St. Greenhills San Juan Metro Manila
Tel No 721-7202 • 724-7085

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO COLLEGE
Mountain Heights, Subdivision, Quinno Hi-way, Pangarap Caloocan City
Tel. Nos. 961-5497 Telefax: 961-5499

St. Dominic Savio College congratulates all its graduates who passed the December 1-2,2003 Nursing Licensure Examination given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)

June 1-2,2003 Licensure Exam Topnotchers as per PRC Ranking

Top1	Myrene Villanueva	86.0%
7	Idohna M. Santiago,	84.2%
8	Wilfredo B. Pacheco	84.0%
13	Grace S. Crucillo	83.0%
14	Annabelle G.Peralta	82.8%
16	Eva Marie R. Combe	82.4%
17	Anna Marie G. Zamora	82.2%
	Maria Cecilia B. Asilo	82.2%
18	Marilou S. Jurado	82.2%
19	Irma M. Galang	82.0%
20	Florencia F. Radovan	81.6%
	Amelita M. Toledo	81.6%

During the June 2003 Board Exam, there were 83 examinees and 77 passed. SDSC got a 93% passing performance. SDSC ranked 3rd overall among all schools nationwide with 60 or more examinees as per PRC publication.

December 1-2,2003 Licensure Exam Performers

Mary Jane P. Paez	86.2%
Jazelle S. del Rosario	84.8%
Rowena T. de Gala	84.6%
Diosdado R. Alava, Jr.	83.0%
Wilhelmina D. Rivera	83.8%
Dona May S. Alzaga	83.8%
Evelyn D. Trazo	83.6%
Marissa B. Reyes	83.4%
Juanita Grace G.Juneng	83.2%
Rosalinda D. Monteverde	83.2%
Anthony Toledo	83.6%
Paul Peter Ong	82.8%
Amelia M. Buenvenida	82.8%
Manuel T. Bodo, Jr.	82.6%
Isaac L. Cheng	82.4%
Norma H. Mejia	82.2%
Ann A. Pajente	81.6%

During the December 2003 Board Exam, there were 53 examinees and 49 passed. SDSC got a 92.45% passing performance. SDSC ranked 4th overall among all schools nationwide as per PRC publication.

Congratulations!!!

SDSC Men's Basketball Team
CHAMPION
Men's Basketball
6th Metro Manila Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association (MMICAA)
March 2,2004

SDSC Men's Volleyball Team
First Runner-up
Men's Volleyball
6th Metro Manila Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association (MMICAA)
February 15,2004

Curricular Programs
• Doctor of Management in major in Educational Management/Corporate Management* • Master in Business Administration • Master of Arts in Education • AB Psychology • AB Mass Communication • BS Computer Engineering • BS Education major in English/Early Childhood • B Elementary Education major in English/Social Science • BS Commerce major in Management/Marketing/Entrepreneur • BS Accountancy • BS Hotel and Restaurant • BS Office Administration • BS Nursing • Associate in Education • Associate in Computer Secretarial • Associate in HRM • Associate in Computer Technician • Associate in Programming • Associate in ElectricTechnician • Associate in Practical Electricity Technician • High School • Grade School • Pres-school • *courses applied for

UNTIL SUPPLIES LAST
WATER TANK CLEARANCE SALE
AVAILABLE IN THESE SIZES

SIZE	HT.	DIA	LIST	FACTORY DIRECT
370L	33.5"	30"	P 4,400.00	P 3,550.00
700L	41"	37.5"	P 6,050.00	P 4,850.00
1000L	54.75"	39.75"	P 8,800.00	P 7,050.00
1500L	83.25"	39.75"	P11,800.00	P 9,450.00
2000L	102"	39.75"	P13,750.00	P11,000.00

WE ALSO SELL TRASHBINS, DRUMS, BEDLINERS, TRAYS, CRATES, ROAD BARRIERS, CONES & SEPTIC TANKS
OUR LOWEST PRICES EVER ON GENUINE INCA WATER TANKS
■ Food grade Polyethylene material
■ Won't rust, break, crack, or chip
■ Better than stainless Steel
■ FDA Approved for safe & clean storage of water
■ Ultra Violet Stabilized for sun protection
BEAT THE WATER SHORTAGE
INCA
INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Tel Nos.: 809-2776 / 809-2745 / 809-2730
Fax No.: 809-1108
website : http://www.inca.cjb.net
Provincial Toll Free : 1-800-1888-4622
HOW TO GET TO INCA
Bldg. 4 Philcrest Compound Km. 23 West Service Road Cupang Muntinlupa City
RULES :
- P800.00 DELIVERY FEE W/IN METROMANILA
- CASH ONLY FOR PICK UP AT FACTORY
- TANK COLOR = BLUE

Philippine Airlines PICK YOUR CHOICE BUDGET PACKAGES

3D SHENZHEN w/ HKG Daytour	$ 73
1N HKG/1N SHENZHEN	$ 80
4D SHENZHEN w/ HKG Daytour or 3D SHEN at Shangri-la Htl	$ 83
3D HKG w/ Shenzhen tour or 1N HKG / 2N SHENZHEN	$ 93
2N HKG/1N SHENZHEN	$ 103
1N HKG/1N SHEN (Fullboard) w/ WINDOWS OF THE WORLD & NIGHT SHOW	$ 113
4D HKG / SZN / MACAU	$ 148
6D HKG / SZN / BEIJING	$ 243
5D HKG / SZN / SHANGHAI	$ 233
8D HKG / SZN / BJS / SHA	$ 353
SINGAPORE @ Summerview 4D	$ 290
SIN+JOHORE BAHRU & BATAM 4D	$ 336
SAIGON @ Marco Polo Htl 3D	$ 315
BANGKOK @ First Htl 4D via KU	$ 193
BKK+SIN 7D via TG	$ 428
BKK+KUL 7D via TG	$ 435
BKK+SGN 7D via TG	$ 488
HKG+BKK 6D via CX	$ 265
HKG+SIN 6D via CX	$ 305
HKG+KUL 6D via CX	$ 315
HKG+JKT 6D via CX	$ 328
HKG+SGN 6D via CX	$ 335
MACAU 4D via NX	$ 210

BUDGET AIR FARES

	OW	RT		OW	RT
HONGKONG	65	85	RIYADH	285	630
SINGAPORE	180	220	DUBAI	258	662
BANGKOK	175	175	KUWAIT	308	630
MACAU	95	100	JEDDAH	360	710
TOKYO	190	340	ABU DHABI	290	670
OSAKA	220	375	BAHRAIN	290	670
FUKUOKA	190	340	HONOLULU	330	630
NAGOYA	190	340	LOS ANGELES	350	615
OKINAWA	210	460	SAN FRANCISCO	350	615
NARITA	190	340	NEW YORK	410	760
TAIPEI	140	285	TORONTO	415	810
SAIGON	195	255	GUAM	290	360
SEOUL	180	370	VANCOUVER	350	615
KUALA LUMPUR	190	238	SYDNEY	360	450
JAKARTA	280	360	LAS VEGAS	425	895
XIAMEN	150	265	NEW ZEALAND	500	790
BEIJING	215	350	EUROPE	325	715
SHANGHAI	225	345			

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED
• We will match any lower airfare or tour package •
Domestic tickets and tour packages available
We assist in all your passport, visa and other documentation needs
TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
MAKATI: Tel. # 753-3388/1121 Fax # 753-5588 Cell # 0917-7918236
BONI/EDSA: Tel. # 747-9547/1284/3298 Fax # 5325715 Cell # 0917-8523887
COMMONWEALTH: Tel. # 431-4829 430-0946 / 952-7974 Cell # 0917-5391653
E-mail: trans_fare@nsdsl.com.ph / Website: www.transnational.netfirms.com

ORIENTIQUE
3rd ANNIVERSARY
SALE 50% OFF
Feb 20 - March 20
HURRY! ALL ITEMS ON SALE , FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS ONLY! FABULOUS FURNITURE PIECES FROM INDONESIA, INDIA, CHINA, INCLUDING NEWLY ARRIVED EXOTIC, TROPICAL ITEMS FROM BALI, INDONESIA AND WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF ART PIECES AND HOME DECOR ACCESSORIES , PERSIAN CARPETS, RUGS, KILLIMS AND NEWLY DESIGNED INDIAN DURRIES
ORIENTIQUE MANDALUYONG
No. 7 [illegible] Mandaluyong
746-6779, 746-6780
ORIENTIQUE ALABANG
[illegible] Filinvest
[illegible] 771-1042, 771-[illegible]

DOJ tells top Naia exec: You can't campaign for GMA

Civil servants warned: Don't engage in politics

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday warned civil servants not to engage in political activities unless they held political positions, as it told a presidential appointee he could not campaign for his patroness this election season.

In a five-page opinion dated March 3, Acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez reiterated the ban on politicking by career civil servants, telling Ninoy Aquino International Airport general manager Edgardo Manda that he could not campaign for President Macapagal-Arroyo while at his post.

Manda had sought the DOJ's legal opinion since he was reportedly planning to join the President's campaign as its manager for Mindanao.

Gutierrez said the Constitution, the Administrative Code of 1987 and the Omnibus Election Code barred civil servants from engaging in partisan political activities if they did not hold political positions.

"Based on the provisions of the Constitution and the laws above-cited, it is clear that civil servants are not allowed to engage in partisan political activity," Gutierrez said.

She defined partisan political activities as acts "designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office."

As to whether a position was political or not, Gutierrez said it was the nature of the functions and responsibilities of the position, "not the rank," that determined this.

Gutierrez said it was clear the Naia general manager's job could not be considered a political office.

"After a perusal of the foregoing textual provisions, it appears that nothing in the functions and responsibilities of the (Naia) general manager would indicate that the same are essentially political in character or that the tenure of its holder co-terminus with that of the appointing authority or subject to his pleasure," Gutierrez said.

"We see no justification to support a conclusion that the position of general manager is among the political offices contemplated by law," she said.

GMA commissions Navy's 'fastest boat'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday commissioned a fast patrol craft donated to the Philippine Navy by the United States.

The 179-foot BRP General Mariano Alvarez, with a top speed in excess of 25 knots, would be "our fastest naval boat, and also has the most accurate gun power," she said at a commissioning ceremony at the Navy headquarters on Manila Bay.

Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said the vessel will be assigned to Navy Task Force Stingray and will be mostly based in the Visayas.

The Cyclone Class vessel was donated by Washington to the Philippine military as part of increased US assistance to its Southeast Asian ally, a key partner in the anti-terrorism campaign in the region.

Built by Bollinger Shipyards of Louisiana and commissioned by the US Navy in 1993, the patrol craft was rehabilitated at the cost of $17 million and it "will be used primarily for internal security operations," a Philippine Navy statement said.

These include anti-smuggling, search and rescue, fisheries protection, and as a support vessel for naval special warfare operations, it added.

Reports from Alcuin Papa and AFP

Damaged diving vessel removed from Apo reef

WITH a helpful nudge from strong amihan winds, the diving boat that ran aground and destroyed parts of the Apo Reef sanctuary off Mindoro island last December was finally removed from the site on Thursday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said over the weekend.

The "26-hour" retrieval operation was accomplished way past the Jan. 30 deadline imposed by the DENR on the vessel's owner, Scuba World.

Asked why the delay, a department official privy to the operation explained that the crew hired by Scuba World and supervised by the DENR had to wait for the "right conditions" set by the winds and the tide—lest the reef be further destroyed.

The "opportunity" only came in the afternoon of March 3 when strong northeasterly winds generated waves massive enough to move the vessel, which had been lying on its starboard side since the Dec. 21 mishap, back into upright position.

The vessel damaged some 200 sq.m. of the Apo Reef Natural Park, as per DENR assessment.

Secretary Elisea Gozun said Scuba World shares the responsibility of rehabilitating the reef and has started consulting with the International Marine Alliance and the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute.

3 topnotchers,
103 board passers in 2003!

BRAINS
Chemistry
Boards Review

Enroll now!
Classes start March 13 & 14.

BRAINS Training and Review
301 Ang Bahay ng Alumni Bldg.
UP-Diliman, QC. ✆ 925-4702, 434-7423
e-mail: brains@info.com.ph

An Affordable Home
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING
Model Units
Ready for Viewing
PASIG ROYALE
MANSION
New Santolan, Pasig City (near LRT-2 Santolan Station)
for as low as P3,388/mo.
*** NO DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME ALSO AVAILABLE
CITYLAND 2003 Leading Condo Developer (Presidential Awardee)
HLURB License to Sell No. 07124 www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • 892-6150 • (0919)310-8553

A Must in Every Business!
Our Cleaning Appliances Continue To Be No. 1 In The Market!
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Lavamatic TI w/extractor
Boston w/extractor
Nevada 429
2400 watts
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FROM THE 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
Exclusively Distributed By:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN OFFICE:1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCHES: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709
162 Del Monte Ave. Nr. Cor. Roosevelt Ave. Tel. 4101086 • 3724429

Take a stand against the high cost of electricity...
BUY ONE TAKE FAN

For a limited time only.
The Condura ESP comes with a
FREE STAND FAN*
This super energy-saving combination
lets you save as much as
P10,333.44 p.a.**
13,200 kj/h (1.5 HP)
on your electric bill.
Promo period is from February 15 to March 31, 2004.

*The FREE STAND FAN is available
with the following models:
13,200 kj/h (1.5 HP):
MCC 135 BP • MCC 135 PR • MCC 135 RP
19,500 kj/h (2 HP):
CQXRM 195 BA • CQXRT 195 BA • CQXRE 195 BA
24,000 kj/h (2.5 HP):
CQXRM 240 BA • CQXRE 240 BA

How ESP works:
Plug the electric fan to the ESP
Set the timer.
When your air con automatically turns off, your electric fan automatically turns on.

** Assuming a nominal power rate of P5.98/kwh and 4hr. ESP usage. Not applicable for non-ESP models.

CONCEPCION-CARRIER AIR CONDITIONING
8639555 CONCEPCION-CARRIER CUSTOMER CARE
FASTAT
0917-8435555
0918-9175555
CONDURA
AN EVEN BETTER CHOICE
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. [illegible] SERIES OF 2004

Rockets hit Baghdad; leaders to sign charter

BAGHDAD—A rocket attack on the US-coalition headquarters in Baghdad late Sunday sent a chilling reminder to Iraq's leaders as they moved closer to signing a long-delayed interim constitution.

At least five rockets were fired at the headquarters, where the signing could take place Monday, from a makeshift launching pad set up on an offroad vehicle.

Three of them hit the landmark al-Rashid hotel, injuring a contractor, and starting a fire, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmit said.

While attacks on the sprawling grounds are regular—the previous one as recent as Wednesday—this strike comes as Iraq's Shiite Muslim leaders were voicing optimism about finally putting pen to paper on the original basic law.

Insurgents in Iraq have previously timed attacks on politically or culturally sensitive dates, including last Tuesday's suicide attacks at Shiite Muslim shrines in Baghdad and the holy city of Karbala that killed more than 170 people.

"You will hear very good news, very soon, the signing will take place Monday," a jubilant Governing Council member Muwaffaq al-Rubaie said.

He said an agreement had been reached after talks with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the revered Shiite cleric who holds a virtual veto over the text.

Council member Mahmud Othman said the attack would not deter the leaders.

"If everyone wants to sign, then the signing will go according to schedule. We have got to get on with what we want to do, we can't let these people disrupt our work," he said.

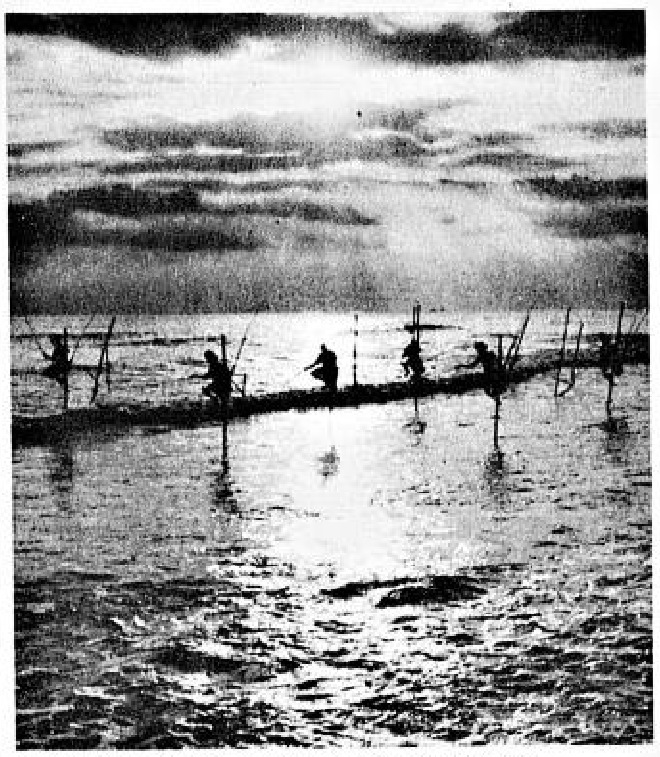
Iraqi Shiite leaders have been working since Saturday to resolve disputes over certain clauses in the basic law, which prompted them to withdraw their endorsement of the crucial text, a major step toward a handover of sovereignty.

By late Sunday, it appeared that Sistani had been convinced that the document should be signed as it stands, without any changes being made.

"There is no change of wording. There is an understanding on what it will do," said Entifidh Qanbar, a spokesperson for Shiite council member Ahmad Chalabi.

Council spokesperson Hamid Kifaieh said the 25 members would meet at 10 a.m. Monday at their headquarters in Baghdad before setting a time to sign the document later in the day.

Insiders to talks on the basic law blamed Sistani, who is based in the holy city of Najaf, for the delay, the third time a signing had been pushed back. *AFP*



IDYLLIC LIFE IN A TROUBLED COUNTRY

Sri Lankans fish from atop poles using a rod made from a coconut branch as the sun sets along the coastline in the city of Galle March 8. The style of fishing is unique to the southern region, and allows the fishermen better access to deeper waters without the aid of boats. The poles have been located in the same spots for centuries. REUTERS

Japan owner of bird flu-hit farm kills self

TOKYO—The head owner of a Japanese poultry business accused of covering up the spread of deadly bird flu among its chickens apparently hanged himself with his wife on one of their farms, police said Monday.

Hajimu Asada, 67, and his wife, Chisako, 64, were found early Monday morning hanging from a tree outside a chicken pen in Himeji, about 480 km west of Tokyo, a local police official said on condition of anonymity.

Police found a suicide note saying: "We have caused so much trouble."

The Asada Nosan farm has come under fire for not telling authorities that its chickens were dying en masse in Tamba, Kyoto prefecture (state), preventing officials from containing the disease at an early stage.

Some 18,000 chickens had died of the flu on Asada's farm—and some of the meat and eggs sold—before an anonymous phone call alerted authorities. Eventually, the disease killed 130,000 birds at the farm in Tamba, and the rest of the chickens there were culled.

Asada, also former deputy chair of the Japan Poultry Association, had faced widespread criticism. He acknowledged his farm had stepped up shipments of chicken meat after noticing the birds were dying, and Japanese Agriculture Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei publicly admonished him for acting so late.

The government was considering criminal charges against Asada, and local media reports said authorities were preparing raids on his company's offices. *AP*

Gunmen fire at Haiti opposition rally; 6 killed

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Gunmen opened fire on an opposition rally in Haiti, killing at least six people, including a journalist, and wounding 34 more as Haitians awaited the naming of a new government.

US and French forces helping police with security during Sunday's demonstration moved onto the lawn of the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince.

"The Haitian National Police, as well as French forces and US marines, responded to gunshots by sending a quick reaction force," said S/Sgt. Timothy Edwards, a US military spokesperson.

Gunshots were heard at the square and appeared to come from within the crowd, while gunmen opened fire on protesters and journalists a few hundred meters away. An angry crowd forced a group of police officers to fire back.

A journalist with Spanish channel Antena 3, Ricardo Ortega, died of gunshot wounds, while US journalist Michael Laughlin of the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Sun-Sentinel newspaper was hit in the shoulder. Some 34 people were reported wounded.

Demonstrators promptly dispersed, many running from the square, after the shooting, which began as the rally was breaking up. They blamed the violence on supporters of ex-president Jean Bertrand Aristide and vented their anger on security forces for failing to prevent the violence.

Aristide left Haiti one week ago, following international pressure and an armed rebellion launched a month ago.

Shortly after the shootings, the Haitian capital's industrial park was looted, according to witnesses and police. Looters emerged carrying sacks of rice said to have been donated by Taiwan.

Rebel leader Guy Philippe said he is ready to take up arms again following the violence.

Philippe told local Radio Vision 2000 he would be "obliged very soon to order the troops to take up the arms they laid down" under US pressure.

The insurgent went to talk with some of the wounded at the Canape Vert hospital, where angry Haitians yelled at US and French soldiers who guarded the entrance, asking to know why they had failed to intervene to prevent the violence.

"It is extremely urgent that the international force presses the police to reestablish security of life and goods," said socialist opposition leader Micha Gaillard.

"The people were demonstrating peacefully having confidence in the Haitian police and in the international security force—unfortunately they did not act. *AFP*

Roh faces impeach action

SEOUL—South Korea's two main opposition parties agreed on Monday to try to impeach President Roh Moo-hyun, but he dismissed the attempt to unseat him for breaking an election rule as an excessive gesture he had a duty to resist.

The National Election Commission said last week Roh had violated election law by speaking in favor of the breakaway Uri Party last month ahead of an April 15 parliamentary election, but did not penalize him.

Impeachment—often threatened but not carried through by opposition parties—would thrust South Korea into uncharted constitutional territory as its economy, Asia's fourth largest, recovers and it grapples with a nuclear crisis in North Korea.

Opposition party officials at the National Assembly told reporters the main opposition Grand National Party had agreed on Monday to join the smaller Millennium Democratic Party to submit an impeachment bill to parliament on Tuesday.

"We'll submit the bill tomorrow and push for the vote the following day," Yonhap news agency quoted Yoo Yong-tae, the floor leader of the Millennium Democratic Party, as saying.

The vote on impeachment would have to be held within 72 hours of the bill being introduced. A two-thirds majority is needed to impeach the president, subject to constitutional court approval. *Reuters*

ROCK
OUR SKYLINE WILL CHANGE AGAIN. JOY
Visit our model units at the Power Plant Mall and Rockwell Information Center • Call 89

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

HIV soaring among Asian women—UN

BANGKOK—HIV infection rates among Asian women are soaring and being married is one of the biggest factors as many women contract the disease from their husbands, the United Nations said Monday.

UNAIDS deputy executive director Kathleen Cravero said women's infection rates in the region had jumped 10 percent in the past two years and would likely soon match that of men if governments failed to take action.

"Women make up 30 percent of adult infections in Southeast Asia and in some countries this is fast moving toward 50 percent," Cravero at an event held to mark International Women's Day.

"In Papua New Guinea more than half of all new infections are among women," she added.

Cravero said marriage had proven to be a high risk factor for women throughout Asia, with many husbands having several extra-marital partners and their wives powerless to object.

"In Thailand a full 40 percent of new infections occurs between spouses, with 90 percent of them from husband to wife, and we have seen a similar trend in other countries such as India," she said.

"One of the biggest factors for this in Asia is the culture of silence, in which women cannot ask about sex or the sexual behavior of their partners."

Malinee Sukavejworakit, an advisor to the Thai Senate committee on public health, said Thailand had made great strides in AIDS awareness but that cultural issues were an obstacle to educating women about the disease.

"We try to put condom machines in universities and public places but Asian culture is different, it is very difficult to persuade people to accept that condoms must be accessible, but this needs to be done," she said.

"Girls at school and the wife at home, who were once the lowest risk group, are now high risk because of the behavior of their husbands and boyfriends," she said.

In a statement released to mark International Women's Day UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said HIV-AIDS was taking a devastating toll on women throughout the world.

"In the world as a whole, at least half of those newly infected are women, and among people younger than 24, girls and young women now make up nearly two-thirds of those living with HIV," he said.

"If these rates of infection continue, women will soon become the majority of the global total of people infected."

Annan said factors such as poverty, abuse and a lack of education were making many current prevention strategies ineffective.

"Where sexual violence violence is widespread, abstinence or insisting on condom use is not a realistic option for women and girls."

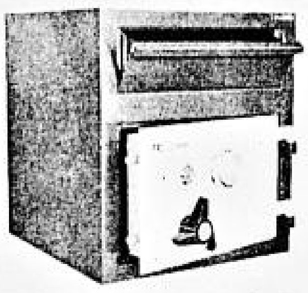
One in every five HIV infections worldwide occurs in the Asia Pacific region according to the United Nations.

It estimates over eight million people in the region had been infected with the virus by the end of 2002, of which more than two and a half million were between the ages of 15 to 24.

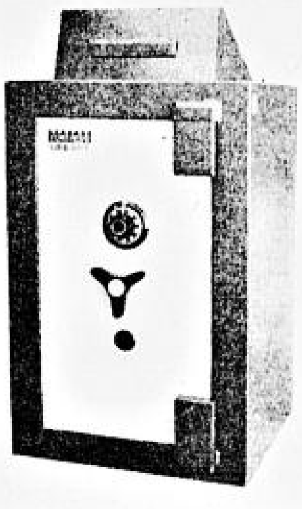
About 40 million people worldwide were reportedly living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2003, of which 19 million were women. *AFP*

PROtech
CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
ISO 9001: 2000
CIP/3061/02/07/301

HOLD-UP!
CASH CONTROL



MONEY SAFE
A must for food & retail stores with absentee owners



NIGHT DEPOSITORY
For businesses dealing in large amounts of cash

- Allows deposit of envelope or money bag
- Provided with anti-fishing device
- Anchors to fix safe on floor
- Dual locking - key-lock and combination lock

DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.

PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph

HEAD OFFICE:
2643-U Taft Ave., Pasay City, MM
Tel. Nos.: 833-3622 * 833-1246
831-0648 * 551-4809 * 551-7869
Fax No.: (632) 831-2961
E-mail: protech@philonline.com

CEBU OFFICE:
Escario St. cor. Don Mariano
Cui St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 255-6384
Telefax: (032) 254-6301
E-mail: protechc@mozcom.com

DAVAO OFFICE:
Unit-B Atty. Fanio Compound
Padre Gomez St., Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 221-5021
E-mail: protechd@mozcom.com

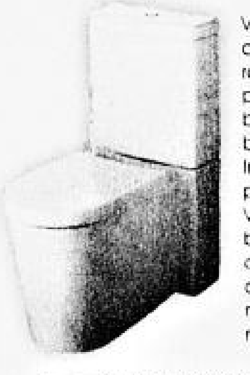
VitrA believes that beauty should be more than skin deep. And the remarkable innovations of VitrAclean and VitrAhygiene prove it.

VitrAclean

VitrA®
SANITARY WARE

VitrAhygiene

VitrAclean has been developed to make life easier for its customers by taking the effort out of cleaning.
The secret lies in the special VitrAglaze - VitrAclean. This unique surface is so incredibly smooth that water is repelled. Dirt simply runs of along with the water and the build up of lime scale is reduced, to provide longer lasting cleanliness and better hygiene.
A VitraAclean surface requires minimal cleaning so you can forget about strong cleaning solutions - all of which is kinder to the environment as well as you. Plus this brilliant surface will stay looking good for years.



VitrA's new anti-bacterial glaze is created by adding silver ions to the raw glaze before firing. The silver particles are able to reduce bacterial growth because the bacteria can't breed.
In tests, 24 hours after bacteria are placed on the surface of a VitrAhygiene product, 99.9% of the bacteria have disappeared. In comparison, 24 hours after bacteria are placed on the surface of a normally glazed product, the number of bacteria has increased.

BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIES PHILS., INC.
Belson House, G/F 271 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 7210717; 7238812 Fax (632) 7238815
Email: bipi@info.com.ph

US Afghan record stained by deaths of civilians, says rights group

KABUL—US operations in Afghanistan are marred by needless civilian casualties, lawless arrests and the alleged torture of prisoners, Human Rights Watch said Monday.

The US military rejected the group's findings, saying it "confused the situation" in strife-torn Afghanistan for one where peacetime methods could be used.

Still, the report raises uncomfortable questions for the United States as it embarks on new operations to crush elusive militants like al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

"The behavior of the United States sends the message that the US operates on a set of double standards," the New York-based rights group said, referring to Washington's criticism of other countries' human rights records.

The 50-page report said the military used excessive force to capture suspects in residential areas.

In one raid detailed in the report, a farmer died from gunfire during an arrest operation aimed at a different man and his two sons—all of whom were later released.

The report also slammed American forces for an assault on an arms-filled compound in southeastern Paktia province last December that triggered explosions, toppled a wall and crushed six children to death. Another raid the following day killed nine more children, when a US warplane strafed a mountain village in neighboring Ghazni province.

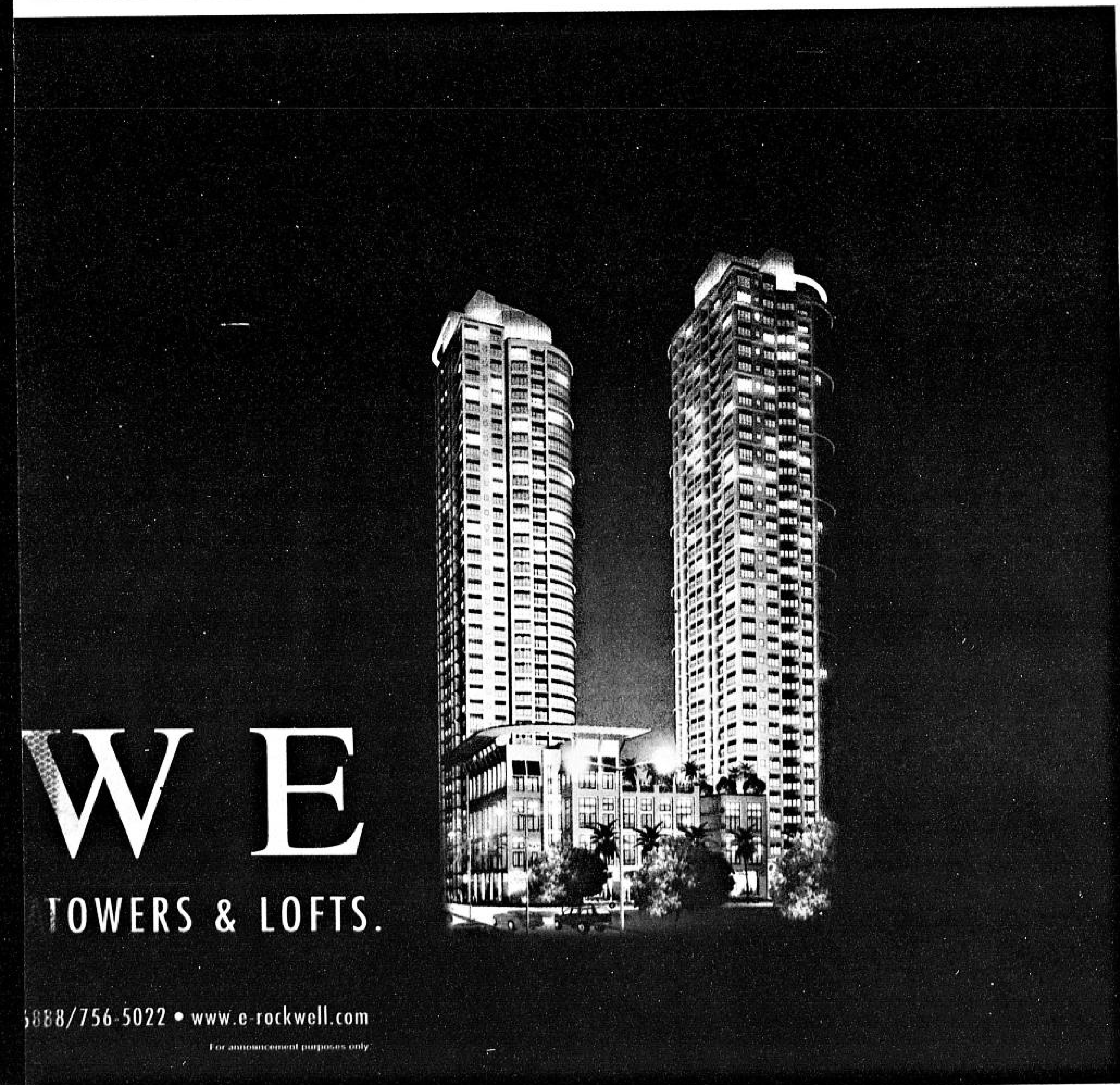
The military says it has modified its procedures after the deaths of the children, and insisted its record in avoiding civilian casualties was "outstanding."

"We're not perfect," US military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said. "But we work hard to improve."

Human Rights Watch said the military's approach has helped alienate America's allies, angered many Afghans and "lessened their willingness to cooperate with US forces."

The report also criticized US treatment of some of the estimated 1,000 Afghans and other nationals arrested in Afghanistan since 2002.

Suspects seized by American troops are often whisked to Bagram, the main US base north of Kabul. The CIA also runs prisons in Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch said. Other suspects languish in prisons run by local Afghan warlords, many of them allies of the US-backed government. *AP*


W E
TOWERS & LOFTS.
888/756-5022 • www.e-rockwell.com
For announcement purposes only

Greece's socialists ousted in elections

ATHENS — Greece's opposition conservatives scored a resounding win in general elections Sunday, ending more than 10 years of Socialist Party rule as Greeks voted for change amid widespread discontent over low incomes, poor public services and corruption scandals.

"It is a new start for all Greeks," said Costas Karamanlis, leader of the conservative New Democracy party, in his first televised speech as prime minister-elect.

With three-quarters of the vote counted, New Democracy had won 46.1 percent compared with 40.5 percent for the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Party (Pasok) which has ruled Greece since 1993.

Pasok leader George Papandreou conceded defeat shortly after the exit polls were released.

"The party of New Democracy has won the election. I wish ND leader Costas Karamanlis good luck in his work," Papandreou, a former foreign minister, said in a televised statement.

According to projections, New Democracy will achieve a solid majority of over 30 seats in the 300-strong parliament, running the country during the Athens Olympic Games in August and seeing through talks aimed at reunifying the divided island of Cyprus, in which Greece and arch-rival Turkey are involved. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN
0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 92
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
OPINION
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Twice shy

EDITORIAL

DALÂ. It's a Tagalog word meaning "cautious, wary or scared because of a previous painful, unpleasant or unfortunate experience." The feeling of "dalâ" is perhaps best expressed by the English saying, "Once burned, twice shy."

Is "dalâ" going to be one of the factors that will decide the presidential election in May? Yes, it would seem so, if we are to believe the views of Prof. Felipe Miranda, research director of Pulse Asia Inc. Last Friday, at a Kilosbayan forum, Miranda said that Fernando Poe Jr. was reaping the effects of former president Joseph Estrada's fall from power. Both Estrada and Poe are actors.

Miranda said that Poe's major handicap was that there was an Estrada before him. He said that at this point during the 1998 presidential campaign, Estrada was already pulling in 40 percent of the voters or higher. Poe, according to the latest surveys, is getting about 30-31 percent of the voters. So, if Miranda's analysis is correct, the "dalâ" factor is accounting for a decrease of least 9-10 percent from the votes that Poe should normally obtain at this point.

That the "dalâ" factor is kicking in, it would seem, is an indication that the Filipino voters are becoming more mature and more discriminating. Miranda said that it used to be that the No. 1 qualification sought by voters in voting for a presidential candidate was that he was "approachable and pro-poor." But now, according to a recent Pulse Asia survey, the top qualifications are if he/she can enforce the law equally and if he/she is sufficiently knowledgeable and experienced in running the country.

Estrada may have been one of the worst presidents the Philippines ever had, but he served a purpose: that of making voters realize that image or popularity is not everything, and that they should look for experience, competence and the ability to run a country in a prospective president.

Estrada actually had previous experience in various positions in government—mayor of a city, senator and vice president—but his experience, charisma and popularity did not serve him in good stead during his presidency. It remains a question now whether Poe, who has had even less formal education than Estrada and who has had no experience in government, can do better or at least equal even his dismal performance in the presidency.

Perhaps the nation could also learn from the experience of Ecuador which in 1996 elected an actor, populist Abdala Bucaram, president. Bucaram, also a popular athlete, had degrees in physical education and law. Once elected, he showed sides of his character that even his opponents had not known about. He shaved off his mustache on TV and offered to auction off the shavings for charity. He appeared on TV shows as an actor, dancer and singer—roles for which he had no special talent.

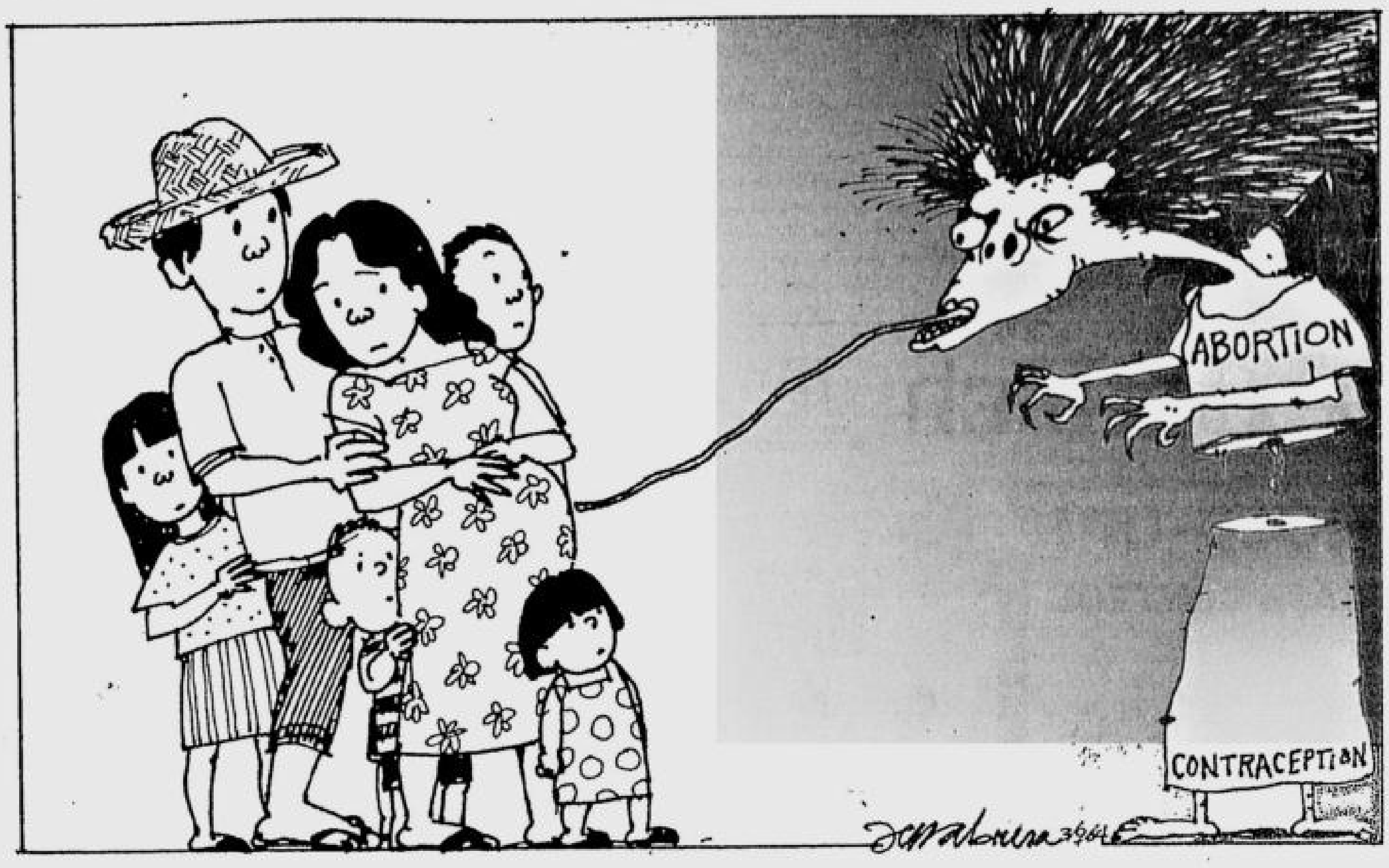
One account said that Bucaram "was frequently criticized for spending more time singing and dancing at campaign rallies than talking about issues." (How very like the candidates for high offices in the Philippines!) But in the end, Bucaram's slogan, "Primero los Pobres! (First the Poor!)" proved to be the decisive factor. In a country where about 60 percent of the population lives in poverty, the candidate who successfully appealed to the poor would have the advantage. In a tight race, Bucaram won the election.

Only six months into his four-year term, Bucaram ran into serious political trouble, bringing his country to a virtual halt. After a 48-hour general strike—the most serious political disruption in Ecuador in 50 years—its congress succeeded in forcing him to resign.

It may be pointed out here that the Philippines and Ecuador have many similarities. They both suffer from a vast inequality of wealth; in Ecuador, about 60 percent of the population are poor or extremely poor. The Philippines and Ecuador both have a difficult geography that divides entire regions from one another. They both have a lot of unrealized economic potential. Both Philippine and Ecuadorian politics have always been fractious and semi-violent. Actually, "semi-violent" may be an understatement in the case of the Philippines.

Ecuador learned a painful lesson the hard way, and the last we heard it was enjoying some measure of stability under a non-actor president.

Will we Filipinos ever learn our lesson and not be blinded by the glitz and glamour of show business, the shallow image and popularity of actor-candidates? Will the "dalâ" element become a decisive factor in a closely fought presidential campaign? We will know in about two months' time.



Plundered waters

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MANY have watched, fascinated, blue starfish or hermit crabs scurrying over coral in display tanks at hotel lobbies or public aquariums.

These swim in a $200 to $300 million yearly global trade in marine ornamental species where the Philippines, as lead supplier, is backsliding from failure to protect vital reefs.

The United Nations Environment Program presents this finding in a new study titled, "From Ocean to Aquarium."

A fifth of the world's wholesalers and four governments participated in the study. Global Marine Aquarium Database analyzed the data. These reveal:

About two million individuals keep aquariums. Over 600,000 are in the United States. The rest are in Europe and Japan. They stock their tanks with wild species, caught in the Philippines, other Southeast Asian countries and Pacific Islands.

Fish, coral and invertebrates (organisms without spinal columns like shrimps) form the trade's "currency."

In 1930, Sri Lanka began exporting tropical fish. The Philippines and Hawaii issued their first permits in the 1950s. Pacific Island countries followed. Today, 1,471 species are marketed, ranging from sea horses to the sapphire devil.

Some 146 species of stony and 61 soft coral flow into the market, mostly from Indonesia. Species range from cat's paw to sea fans.

About 500 species of invertebrates, like cleaner shrimp, are traded. Giant clam shells deck curio shops, serving as water troughs. Is the meat a marine Viagra? "In some Asian and Pacific countries," the UN report notes, the meat is considered "as an aphrodisiac."

The Philippines tops eight exporting nations, in volume and species. It sold 1.52 million fish, compared to Indonesia's 943,0000 plus. Manila offered 43 of 93 species traded; Solomon Islands, 26.

"Aquaria trade is low volume but high value," UNEP notes. A kilo of live coral for aquariums cost between $2 and $4. As construction filler, it sells for two cents. A kilogram of ornamental fish may earn $500. Six dollars is the most a kilo of reef fish for dinner can fetch.

It's also a trade "seldom free of controversy." Disputes continue over ecological costs and trade benefits. And they're stoked by data and research gaps.

But there's consensus on damage from overharvesting, introduction of alien species and destructive collection practices like cyanide.

Squirting cyanide into reefs to stun fish, originated in the Philippines and Taiwan in the 1960s. "In the mid-80s, more than 80 percent of all fish harvested in the Philippines and destined for the aquarium trade were collected using cyanide."

Poisoning decimates marine populations. It destroys reefs. Misuse of cyanide spread to Asean countries, then leapfrogged to Maldives in the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the Seychelles.

Poison and dynamite wrecked reefs, called the "rainforests of the seas." They're one of the world's most productive ecosystems. About a third of the marine fish species, plus over 800 kinds of corals, come from reefs.

But only four percent of reefs here remain in excellent condition, the update of the 1997 inventory of the Coral Resources of the Philippines reveals.

Degraded reefs in Panay Gulf and the Bohol Sea now yield only four to five metric tons per square kilometer yearly—compared to its original potential of 15 metric tons..

The rest are under constant pressure from pollution, dynamite fishing to one of the lesser-understood threats: "bleaching." When warm weather and chemical sludge interact, reefs turn white and die.

Science journal reports: "Since 1977... there has been exceptionally strong unprecedented warming, with average temperature rising at the rate of about 0.36 degrees per decade."

And population daily builds up. Today, 39 out of every 100 people live within 100 kilometers from the coast. That increases the load from growing numbers of tourists waste.

Policy makers must grapple with a multi-pronged dilemma: how to reverse extensive ecological damage, conserve species and habitats while reinforcing economic incentives for a legitimate business that supports small fisherman—even as the weather changes.

"Purchasing power that hobbyists possess is undoubtedly the single most important market force in the marine aquarium industry," UNEP report points out. "If customers demanded that harvests used sustainable techniques, this would impact on source countries." The US now demands certification of sustainable harvesting for coral imports.

Reforms require greater support for research and continuing education. In addition, practical strategies must be enforced marine reserves and temporary closures, as on Apo Island, Negros, and size limits.

Bans may be unavoidable. Giants clams here are almost extinct. Once the Philippines largest export item, sales were banned in 1996.

Haribon Foundation and the government collaborated with Ocean Voice and Inter-Marinelife Alliance to devise alternate methods of fishing. "After five years, live reef fish that test positive for cyanide declined from 80 percent in 1993 to 20 percent in 1998," UNEP adds.

"Ninety percent of the history of life took place in the seas." And the coasts are the natural crossroads for man. It's there where the limits of the ocean become most apparent.

Cynicism

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A COUPLE of readers wrote to wonder if I have not turned cynical. They've noticed, they said, that I've just been angry, particularly at the candidates in the elections and particularly at GMA. Maybe I should be more constructive and help to make things better instead of worse? One said that since he joined government he has seen that life isn't as simple as he thought it was when he was outside of it criticizing. Maybe I should look at things in that light.

Well, the two are obviously rooting for GMA and are stung by my opinion of her. But the last time I heard people tell me earnestly that since they joined government they've seen that life wasn't as simple as they supposed and I should look at it in that light was during the last days of the Erap government. The people who told me this were my friends. They were former activists and NGO workers who had campaigned for Erap, or helped their boss do so, and were now steeped in his government. Maybe the criticisms against Erap were right, they said, but unbeknownst to the public, his government was doing some good for them too. Unlike working in the NGO, it wasn't easy working in the bureaucracy. Whoever you put in charge there was going to have the same problems.

If I had listened to them, the people who are giving me the same advice today would not be there rooting for their own boss. They would be there rooting for Erap, or his protégé.

I have something better than joining government and that is joining the ranks of the above 50. Growing older is the best way to see that life isn't as easy as you first imagined. It certainly offers a different view from 52 years than it did from 22. None of that means resigning oneself to iniquity, or absurdity, or mediocrity. Which is something I've seen in many of my peers, whether or not they've joined government. The fact that life poses more adversity than you expected is a challenge to do more, it is not an excuse to do less. Certainly, it is not a reason to agree to less.

I have a better suggestion than joining government to see how life can be so complicated. That is living simply to see how life can be so simple. It should make you see that a great deal of what seems impossible is not. Before you make demands on the nation, you should make demands on yourself.

Just as well, idealism is not a matter of ignoring the horrendous aspects of life in the hope you will not be intimidated by it. The horrendous aspects of life do not go away by being ignored and have a way of subverting enthusiasm in the end. You get bitterly disappointed when Edsas turn out to be Carriedos. That is the surest way to become cynical down the road.

It is not idealism to ignore the almost unimaginable depths of poverty in this country, the one the documentary "Riles," which depicts life along the railroad tracks, offers a glimpse of, it is recklessness. It is not idealism to imagine that people who are forced to live such irrational lives will act rationally—or according to what we deem rational—and to see the problem of elections merely as one of voter education or issue articulation, it is suicide. It is not cynicism to see the cynicism of the poor, or to see, as "Riles" does a group of folk driven to such desperation they embrace Erap the way they embrace the Virgin Mary, the Santo Niño and all the icons in their brittle and impermanent hovels, and why they see elections as little more than an exercise in haggling: It is looking at the world with 20-20 vision.

I remember that several stalwarts from Edsa II also berated me some years ago for taking "Edsa III" deathly seriously when they merely dismissed it as the handiwork of hooligans and *bayaran* and INC conscripts, brought together by Erap's minions. That was of course in part true. But that was just the tip of the iceberg, the pro-Erap aspect of it. The submerged part was a spontaneous rebellion of the poor, as spontaneous as "Edsa II" itself, the cry of desperation that it was, the explosion of the social volcano that people had been warning about as far back as pre-martial law days. That you ignored only at your own peril.

That happened a month before the elections of that year, 2001. That was the reason I was less than sanguine about the voter education campaigns I was conscripted into—I did help, notwithstanding—with its tacit premise that all you needed to do to make vote people wisely was to cajole them to. Or to manipulate their emotions with images and sounds and stories into doing so. I was saying then that the real issue in those elections was "Edsa III" and what it signified, the magma of wretchedness that lay at the pit of the metropolis, or indeed the country itself, that was being roiled and roistered every which way. Before you can tell people to vote wisely, you have to define wise. Vote wisely—for whom?

No, I will not join the chorus of people singing "Magkaisa" and "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" while the Edsa Shrine fills with unshod feet and smelly armpits and while the franchisees of Edsa complain about its defilement just so I'd be taken for one of those who are constructive and enthusiastic and idealistic. I am angry and will remain so well after the elections. I am angry not at Elmer Jacinto but at the fact that we have produced youth like him, a medical board topnotcher who proposes to become a nurse in America. I am angry that people imagine elections are the end of things and not the means of things, and that people like Elmer Jacinto will disappear if we ignore them. Well, they will.

The day I stop being angry is the day I become truly cynical about this country.

But having said all this, I must ask now: Who are the real cynics in this country? (*To be concluded*)

Conditioning

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN DIVISORIA, I was told by a market vendor who is a member of the Couples for Christ that CFC is batting for President Macapagal-Arroyo, on the argument that the nation needs continuity of programs. The CFC's support will be a big boon to GMA as it cuts across all social classes and is widening its base among the C and D classes. On the other hand, my nephew who visited Davao City recently related that he probed working-class voters such as waiters and airport porters on whom they will vote for. A number of them said GMA, adding that they lost interest in FPJ after he merely stuck to repeating his movie lines instead of talking about his program of governance.

* * *

The opposition may have realized that FPJ is fast slipping in popularity, despite the huge rallies the stars are able to gather for him. This is why it has shifted to sowing fears of cheating in the coming elections. KNP senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda alleges that two million printed ballots are missing, but Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos dismisses this, asserting that KNP representatives watched the printing together with those of other parties. Expect more such allegations as the opposition conditions the people's minds to alleged cheating.

* * *

Two recent non-election developments are laudable. One is the move of National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force chief (NAKTF) Angelo Reyes to apprehend vehicles without license plates. He issued the "no plate, no travel" warning to motorists to discourage kidnap gangs that move around without license plates. One irregularity, however, is that some vehicles are allowed to roll out of factories or dealerships without plates, and owners abuse the use of conduction stickers by driving around even when these are already expired. The NAKTF chief advises owners to complete their paperwork if they don't want to be apprehended. His move is good and long overdue, but there should be no exemptions. No plate, no travel even if it's Mr. Bigshot aboard.

* * *

The other good development is the rerouting of many streets into No-U turn streets, which has resulted in smoother, faster flow of traffic. I note that traffic in the metropolis has eased up considerably even during rush hours and one reason is the rerouting. Kudos to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. The bad thing, however, is that traffic lights on these streets continue to function, causing confusion and even danger. While the locals generally ignore them, foreigners driving here might stop when the light goes red, even though they ought to keep going because of the re-routing; thus, they risk being bumped from behind. BF, please turn off those unneeded traffic lights before they cause accidents.

* * *

I join the chorus in asking the government to help a Filipino, Philip Bongawil, a former US Navy man and now a US citizen. He's suffering from leukemia and is in urgent need of a stem cell transplant. His sister, Carmelita Fuchigami, a Baguio resident, who has undergone positive compatibility tests as a tissue donor is being denied a visa by US immigration officials, despite Philip's doctor's certification. They fear that once in the US she would go "TNT." It is heartless of US authorities to deny her a visa and ignore Bongawil's service in their navy. Perhaps the Philippine government can help him on the diplomatic front. What about First Gentleman Mike Arroyo who has repeatedly come to the rescue of Pinoys in distress abroad? Can he do something for this hapless Pinoy?

* * *

Yesterday I wrote of the battle royale in Leyte between former Rep. Sergio Apostol, until recently chair and president of PNOC-EDC, and Gov. Remedios "Matin" Petilla and husband, former Gov. Leopoldo Petilla, who are fielding their son, Jericho, a brilliant computer expert, against him for governor. Apostol is the official Lakas candidate, but Jericho's running under Lakas-NPC, even as they both support GMA. This set-up where candidates from the same party are vying against each other is replicated in many provinces.

Matin Petilla, who's finishing her third term as governor, will run for Congress in the first district, but she's not unopposed, as I had written. Prof. Celso Cainglet called to inform me that Ninoy Aquino associate Charlie Avila, Cory Aquino's appointee to the Philippine Coconut Authority, who later became executive director of the National Council on Food Security and Jobs Creation under GMA, will run against Petilla under the banner of Lakas-Kampi. Petilla is the Lakas-CMD candidate. It's going to be a tough fight for Avila, though, for the Petillas have won five successive provincial elections since 1988 to 2001 and have an intact province-wide network. In the 2001 elections, Matin won in 40 out of 41 municipalities. In Tacloban, alone she won by 19,000 votes more than her opponent. In the first district, Matin has the support of six out of the seven mayors, and like GMA she is super-*masipag* in campaigning.

* * *

A meaningful way to observe International Women's Day yesterday was the fight put up by various women's groups, led by the militant Gabriela, against the insensitive and vulgar ad of Napoleon Brandy, that carries the line, "*Nakatikim ka na ba ng kinse anyos?*" The protesters have threatened to campaign for boycott of the liquor brand and even tear down its billboards. That company should take those angry women seriously.

The ad line was an allusion to the sad preference of some men for 15-year-old girls, but it should repulse decent men who have wives, mothers and sisters who have suffered degradation with this line. I am glad the Advertising Board listened to the women's plea and ordered the recall of that ad. Next time, it should be more sensitive to indignities against women.

The day after Women's Day

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HAPPY International Women's Day, everyone! It may be a day late, but it's still a good time to remember the women in our lives: our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, wives, daughters, granddaughters. It's also time to remember the other women who do their share of mothering, nurturing and caring even if they're not family—teachers, nurses, house help, caregivers, cooks and laundry women. Indeed, there's a whole network of women out there looking out for all of us. The government, for one, relies on a workforce made up predominantly of women to run its offices and agencies, even as many of them are stuck in mid-level positions that offer little by way of prestige, honor or even remuneration. But as the example of the Commission on Audit's "Powerpuff Girls," the all-women team of auditors who uncovered discrepancies in Meralco's tax payments, as well as the auditor who investigated the IPP's bookkeeping irregularities, it's often women who prove to be the braver and more dedicated civil servants.

At the moment, Filipino womanhood is enjoying a rare period of official recognition. With the departure of Cabinet members who've either retired, died or are running in the May elections, the President has appointed "career" officials to head their departments, and in most cases the new department heads are women. Thus, we now have the largest number of women Cabinet members ever, what with the appointment of Secretary Delia Albert in Foreign Affairs and Julia Amatong in Finance, in addition to Secretary Dinky Soliman of Social Welfare and Development, Secretary Emy Boncodin of Budget, Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas of Labor, Secretary Elisea Gozun of Environment and Natural Resources and Teresita Quintos Deles who occupies the Cabinet-level post of presidential adviser on the peace process, as well as Mai Jimenez, presidential adviser on ODA projects.

* * *

DURING every campaign stop of the women's party-list group Abanse! Pinay, someone is bound to ask: Why the need for a women's party and for women's representatives in Congress? We've already had two women presidents, and women play prominent roles in our politics. The number of women now sitting in the Macapagal-Arroyo Cabinet would seem to bolster their contention that women are already powerful and influential in this country, at least in politics.

But the truth is that despite these many high-profile women, the number of Filipino women elected to office, from the national to the local level, has rarely exceeded 10 percent. So how can our democracy be considered truly representative when half of the population is represented, at least in terms of numbers, so sparingly and inadequately?

A thought to ponder, the day after International Women's Day.

* * *

TOGETHER with Abanse! Pinay secretary-general Erlin Tagle and treasurer Joy Uy-Tioco, we were guests last Saturday of the Soroptimist International of Lucena for the launching of the "Information Campaign on Domestic Violence against Women and Children" as well as for the annual conferment of the club's "Making a Difference for Women" awards.

The SI Lucena club was able to access funds through Abanse! Pinay for the information campaign, which will cover all barangays of Lucena to inform them about issues of violence against women in the light of the "Violence against Women and their Children" Act, signed into law by President GMA yesterday.

Among the guests at the afternoon affair were Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr., who welcomed all the participants, and his wife Barbara Ruby, who delivered the closing remarks. Ms Talaga brought along the members and officers of the Kalipunan ng mga Babaeng Pinuno ng Lucena (Association of Women Leaders of Lucena), local women community leaders including some barangay officials.

The support of the city officials was but to be expected since the current president of SI Lucena is Juliet Villanueva, the city administrator.

* * *

AMONG the Soroptimist officers we met that afternoon, one of the most memorable was Siony Flores, who at over 80 years old is quite active in club affairs as chair of the human rights committee. Reacting to my comments that "culture" is one of the barriers in the work of creating "violence-free" communities, she recounted a story about a battered wife who visited her abusive husband the morning after police hauled him off to jail, bearing a cup of coffee because "he expects his coffee first thing in the morning."

Tita Siony's story drew laughs but everyone recognized the truth that underlay the tale: in many ways, women's biggest enemies may be themselves and the whole culture package that our upbringing gifts us with, including low self-esteem, a belief in our "natural" subservience to men, and our acceptance of degradation and violence.

In their own ways, the awardees recognized by SI Lucena are doing their share towards putting to right the inequalities between women and men in Filipino society.

Severina Cabuyao Nadres, a medical doctor who made the leap to local politics and is now vice mayor of Tayabas, was the "Women of Distinction" awardee. Dr. Rosalina Pagkatipunan, representing the Charity Hospice Care movement that provides health care to homebound indigents, received the "Women Helping Women" award. Dinglasan Garments, a Lucena-based firm which employs a predominantly female workforce, received the "Advancing the Status of Women" award.

It was certainly a pleasure meeting the women of Lucena, particularly the Soroptimists who proved to be gracious hosts as well as enthusiastic partners in the work of improving the status of women wherever and whomever they are.

A tale of Pangasinan (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE INFIDEL Igorots who were hidden gave their customary war cry, at which signal the *alcalde mayor* commanded the vanguard to beat the drum for an attack. At the same time, he reinforced the front of the company with the one behind it. The rest waited in battle formation. The ammunition for the *lantacas* and the stone-throwing mortars were positioned in the same place as the riflemen to contain the enemy. But seeing that there was no attack but only fierce shouts and that the enemy appeared distant, the mayor ordered one of his captains with 50 armored soldiers and their riflemen to remove the palisade. This done, the march continued although night had fallen since the place was not favorable to bivouac.

They arrived at the entrance to the town of Balangabang, where they camped on the riverbanks so that the men could rest. The following day at daybreak, the men were ordered to reconnoiter the road they would march on to climb the mountain until the settlements of Luacan and Tonglo. Fr. Antonio Lobato offered to go with 16 men, only to discover that there was no road along the river for them to advance.

One of the Igorots who surrendered called Ampuguey was the chief of a settlement. He was well known for the deaths he had caused during his raids on the towns of San Fabian and San Jacinto. Because of this, the members of the expedition were asking for his head.

The *alcalde mayor* refused the request and secured his person. He did the same for Bulas, Mandan de Balangabang, Bangay del Tocod, Bosol, Agsabal and others who comprised the three settlements with their women and children.

The settlement of Balangabang, which was made up of 15 houses and had fields planted to camote and *gabi*, was ordered burnt and destroyed. The fields of sugar cane and tobacco in the settlement of Soquiar which had 18 houses were also ordered destroyed by another company. This company, which belonged to a certain Magaldan refused to obey, and so another under the command of D. Manuel de Arza and S. Pelayo with his riflemen was sent instead. The company marched at night until it reached the zenith of the mountain. The following day, they attacked Soquiar without few casualties aside from three men who were wounded after they stepped on the stakes hidden in the ground.

The *alcalde mayor* also ordered the towns of Agoo, Bauan and Bagnot to form three companies which would go into the mountains destroying settlements, fields and whatever they found belonging to the Igorots until the troops from Pangasinan reunited in the plains of the Laguna de Benguet. Then all the forces were to enter in Pangotcotan where the major force of the enemy would be found. They would also see the place where their gold mines were located.

The action failed because the company that left San Fabian could not climb the steep mountain to join those from Agoq, no matter how they tried. It was necessary to come out of the same river and direct the march through the mountains of Sobosob until the reached the new town of Guinitaban under the leadership of S. Pablo. They were met by Fr. Francisco Romero, an Augustinian missionary who was working in those mountains.

When the alcalde mayor thought that all had been subjugated under threat of force, he received the tragic news that the company from Agoo composed of 150 men was in great danger, encircled by the Igorots in Guinotbaongan. The news was brought by someone from the company who had a wound on his forehead. He narrated that the camp commander, D. Antonio del Rosario, upon arriving at the town of Apatol at daybreak was greeted by the traditional war cry of the infidels from Tonglo, supported by forces from other settlements. With the Christians on the defensive, a deadly battle ensued.

The Igorot chief called Guilit, who was well known to the the camp commander, sued for peace, saying that nine of his men were dead and many more wounded by arrows. They appeared ready to surrender and serve as vassals.

The commander accepted the proposition and embraced Guilit. They parted amicably, with the commander exhibiting too much trust in the infidel chief as he experienced later.

He took the road to Aringay which was difficult and rough, and when they careless entered a ravine in enemy territory, they were attacked by the same Guilit and his Igorots. An uneven fight ensued due to the advantageous position occupied by the infidels from which they attacked the troops in the gully with lances and stones, causing much damage.

The commander endeavored to extricate his men from that difficult position, trying at all costs to put his men in a wider terrain so that they could spread out. When he tried to advance, they were attacked by Igorots who were waiting in ambush. This rattled the Spaniards who, without attending to their defense, just sought to escape danger and flee.

The bearer of the news told the *alcalde mayor* that he had seen the commander dead, along with his brother and a brother-in-law. Later five more men arrived from the company and cofirmed the information.

(From Paterno, "Historia de Filipinas," Vol VII.)

A hive for Bee

YOUNG BLOOD

Erin Batac

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

BEE seems to have dwelled in many interesting places.

She grew up in the small town of Sto. Cristo, in a house behind an old theater. She was six when she thought of spreading cardboard pieces on the ground near the theater's exit. She'd lie down and peep to watch movies. One time, the theater guard made the rounds, carrying a flashlight and he knew someone was peeping behind the exit. Bee stopped doing it, afraid that the guard might poke her in the eye with a stick.

Some time later the theater owner had more toilets built. Bee was annoyed that the extension of the cinema further cramped the already small space where she and her friends could play. She led her friends in gathering balls of mud and throwing them at the toilets. One was a good thrower if the mud stuck, an expert if it went through the windows. Bee was quick to hide when the guard marched out after hearing complaints from moviegoers.

Those kids must have been a huge headache to the theater owner. To get rid of it, she bought the land surrounding the theater.

The families who lived there begged her to sell them the parcels they were occupying. Bee's grandparents had been paying for their land, but they were told the receipts they were keeping were fake.

Realizing that the homeowners would never leave, the owner took action. One afternoon when she got home, Bee saw big, mean-looking men hammering and tearing down their house. She had just turned 13 that day.

It was embarrassing to be treated like squatters, but at least there were no bulldozers since there was no way those machines could get through. The place was so crowded that the dwellers had to beg another rich guy to set aside a narrow *iskinita* so they could have get in and out of their homes. A pedicab couldn't get through the *iskinita*, but the rich guy said it was wide enough for a coffin to pass through in case any of the residents died. He's dead now, that rich guy.

If the demolition took place today, Bee would have been traumatized. But then being a young girl with a happy disposition, she thought going away somewhere was fun. For the grown-ups it was a very sad, confusing time. They didn't know where to go.

An uncle in another town offered his vacant house to Bee's family. They lived there for almost years, and then moved again. Bee was again an uprooted child.

The year when Bee's parents started to build their own home in a subdivision Mt. Pinatubo erupted. If you were 14 and saw ash fall covering the houses like you were in the North Pole, you'd think it cool. It was a wonder that Bee's family didn't lose their still unfinished house after all the nearby towns were buried in lahar.

Although she was away most of the time studying in college, Bee didn't escape the disaster. She was homesick and it was hard to get updates on the situation back home. There were times when she had to ride on a truck with stranded travelers to get home. She always found men who were willing to help carry her heavy bags filled with dirty clothes. By the time she got home, Bee's jeans would be muddy and her hair and face a wreck. She used to be afraid of fire, earthquakes and storms. Suddenly a volcano she had never heard changed their lives.

Now that she's working, Bee lives in an old building in Quiapo, Manila that is crying to be demolished. The building must have been built on a crack in the earth so that sometimes she cannot tell if it is an earthquake or just a passing truck that is rocking the building. But it's the only place she can afford.

Some days Bee feels cool and hip to wake up in that dump. The building has "exclusive" power and water shortages when her landlord fails to pay the bills. The last time it happened, Bee found herself preparing to go down to fetch water at close to midnight after she heard that a fire hydrant would be opened. She look out of her window and couldn't see any pails lined up. So she just woke up very early the next day and took a bath in her place of work.

For days after the electricity went back, the landlord told them they could operate all the appliances but they should not turn on the lights. He said no one from the outside should know the power was back until he fixed the problem.

Bee was bothered by this and she knew that keeping silent made her an accessory to the crime. But she just shut up, telling herself she was moving out soon anyway. Poking her finger into a lot of things might not do her any good and she had a family in the province who depended on her. Sometimes people who are not well-to-do are left without a choice.

Bee has lived in many interesting places she called "home" but she has never found a real one. And she can't help but ask why some people have palaces while others have no roof over their heads at all.

"What's the greatest question you have asked in your life?" somebody once asked. Bee never thought of that one, although she has started to question the meaning of a life that seems to destined to suffer. But the more pressing question as far as she is concerned is always: Should she take a jeepney or an FX or a taxi on the way to her lodging. Which of the three had the least chance of being held up or bombed?

These are not the greatest questions of her life, but other questions spring from them. After work, could she really say she is "going home" to Quiapo? Does she even want to reach her destination? For someone who has been cursed not to have a permanent home, what is home? How many homes will she come home to before she finally reaches home? Moving from the deafening stillness of her hometown to the cacophony of the city, Bee just wants to reach a place she can call her own for some peace and quiet.

Bees still goes back to the province on weekends, and every time she does, she passes by the *iskinita* in Sto. Cristo. Sometimes she dreams that is still living in the old house. Bee heard that the place looks lonely now. There are rumors that after they left, ghosts and white ladies started to be seen there. She has no idea what the owner plans to do with the land after forcing them to leave many years ago.

Bee once dreamed of becoming rich some day and building a world-class cinema to put the old, rat and mosquito infested theater out of business. But surely God would not give you what you ask for if your intentions are that bad. So instead Bee dreams that someday she'll have a fine, small cottage of her own in a nice town.

Fortunately or unfortunately, Bee wasn't born a queen. But worker bees can go out and see the world, and they are free to dream.

Erin Batac, 27, teaches special children at the Bridges Foundation, Inc. in Quezon City.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Way-off-the-mark allegations

LAST March 1, I was reported to have diverted P10.5 million of my CDF to "family controlled entities," part of which was "loaned out to beneficiaries at 30-40 percent per year." The news account was grossly distorted and unfair. The Bukidnon Integrated Network of Home Industries (Binhi) and the Bukidnon Vegetable Producers Cooperative (BVPC) are, indeed, recipients of livelihood support and agricultural funds. Binhi, in particular, is engaged in the novel microfinance, women-focused, Bangladesh-inspired poverty alleviation program called Grameen (Village) Banking. Both entities were, indeed, initiated and established with the help of my family; six of our project workers, including myself and an aunt, were trained in Bangladesh extensively in the early 1990s. Then, Grameen Banking was seen or scoffed at by many as rather quixotic, but my family saw fit to pursue and establish it in Bukidnon. Both Binhi and BVCP, while identified with me or my family, have now independent boards of trustees and are not "family controlled"as the article stated.

The writer of the article did not mention that the Binhi and BVPC programs funded by CDF funds are for Grameen Banking—yes, micirocredit loans with interest rates of 2.5 percent per month for operational expenses and all collateral-free. Binhi has now grown to benefit 7,500 poor women in 140 barangays in eight municipalities, making it the largest project of its kind in the region, if not in Mindanao. Over the last 15 years, Binhi has received soft loans and funding support from various national and international agencies such as the Canada Development Fund, New Zealand Embassy, Grameen Trust of Bangladesh, the UNDP Small Grants Program, PCSO, the Presidential Management Staff, and Agricultural Credit Policy Council, among others.

INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David visited the Binhi women beneficiaries in October 2003 and wrote about Binhi success stories: some women who now have cottage industries and projects worth P70,000 to over P100,000 and have mutual funds and group savings amounting to over P10 million. Many of them are affiliated with the women's party-list Abanse! Pinay. ABS CBN's "Magandang Umaga Bayan" also came to Bukidnon in 2003 and featured the livelihood projects of Binhi beneficiaries. On March 6, the PMS is slated to hand over another P1 million (now a total of P3 million) to Binhi for Grameen Banking expansion in various barangays.

It is clear that this issue, which they use against me and my family every election time, is done with malice. The so-called Bukidnon Crusade Against Corruption headed by a certain Fr. Jun Balansag, is a known ally of my political opponents and is related by affinity to a politician nephew of Governor Zubiri. This is a political demolition campaign masquerading as an anti-corruption movement.

—REP. NEREUS ACOSTA,
First District, Bukidnon

Wrong name and date

IN HIS column last Jan. 31, 2004 titled "Name-droppers at Customs uncovered," Ramon Tulfo alluded to me as one who uses the name of the First Gentleman (Mike Arroyo) in my transactions at the Bureau of Customs.

Tulfo, quoting some alleged Customs sources, claimed "Galang, according to Customs sources, does not hide his alleged closeness to Mr. Arroyo. He named his company FG 627 and used the company's name as consignee of luxury vehicle shipments. 'FG,' Galang tells Customs appraisers, stands for First Gentleman while 627, stands for the birthdate of Mr. Arroyo which is June 27."

Either Tulfo was "*nakuryente*," or he was deliberately misled by his so-called Custom sources.

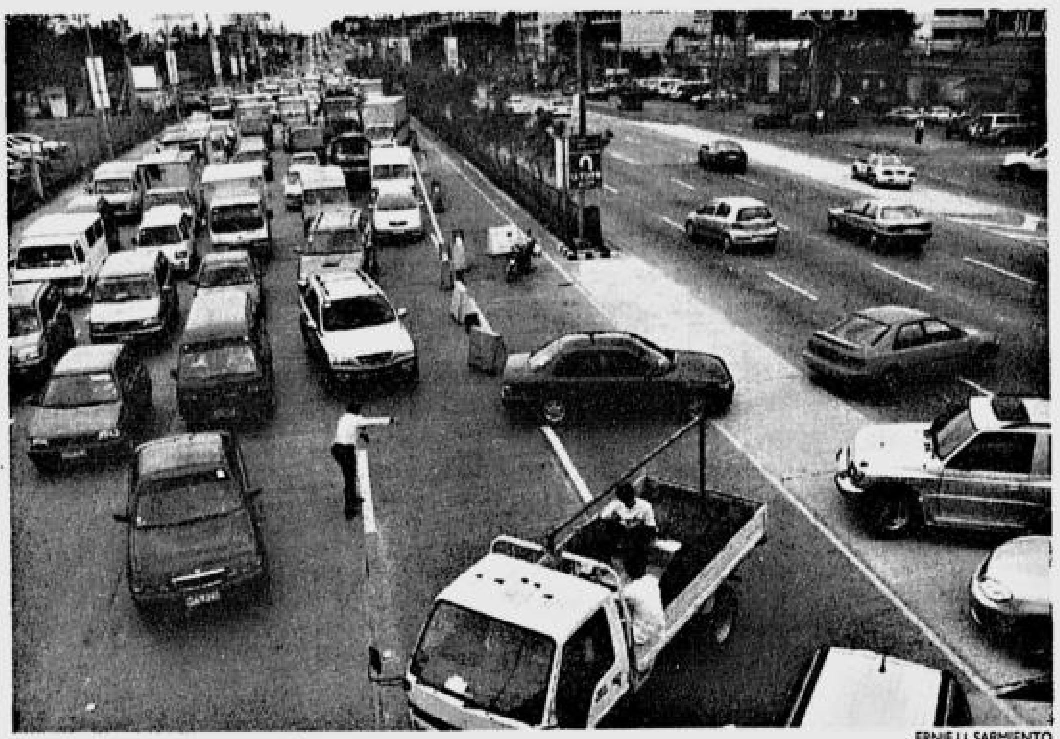
My firm is a duly registered corporation, named "FG 628 Subic Bay Trading Co. Inc." and not "FG 627" as Tulfo claimed. The FG does not stand for First Gentleman but for Fred Galang and the figure 627 is erroneous as you may see in the SEC Certificate of Incorporation which states that the figure there at is 628 which corresponds to my own birth date.

My company is a duly registered locator inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and we do not import "highly taxable luxury cars like Porsche, Lexus and Volvo" contrary to the claim of Tulfo. Also, I have never used anybody's name, and certainly not that of Arroyo, in any of my business dealings.

—ALFREDO S. GALANG,
FG 628 Subic Bay Trading Co. Inc.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Dangerous U-turn slot schemes

THIS has reference to a story last Feb. 10 titled "Row on Katipunan trees" where the Metro Manila Development Authority chair made a statement, "Just leave the planting to the government. The MMDA will have the final say if plants will be allowed on the road. We have to remember that our No. 1 consideration is safety of motorists and pedestrians."

May I inform the public that the Greening of Katipunan project was a joint project with the MMDA office during the term of MMDA chair Ben Abalos. This activity also sought the clearances needed from the Quezon City Parks Development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Manila Seedling Foundation. The entire endeavor was cited by the former MMDA chair cited as a good example of public and private partnership. The revival of the "greening" along Katipunan was in response to the MMDA's project "Urban Renewal" which had a special consideration for the improvement of the environment. The trees planted on the islands of the main avenue do not pose a threat to the safety of the motorists and pedestrians. They actually serve as a welcome shade to commuters and pedestrians and calm motorists' nerves. They are not a source of traffic jams, contrary to what the MMDA chair claims.

The present U-turn scheme on Katipunan recently devised is a greater threat to motorists and pedestrians alike. Since the opening of the U-turn slots last Feb. 2, 2004 there have been 23 vehicular accidents reported. Students, employees and residents take great risks crossing Katipunan. The chair's proposed footbridges will not help the old, the handicapped and the very young. The U-turn slots do not adequately address the conflict resulting from speeding vehicles coming down from the flyover that suddenly meet with the slow moving vehicles at the U-turn slots. Both are invitations to a possible collision. These are the conditions replicated in other streets across Metro Manila.

—VICTORIA M. SEGOVIA,
Environmental Studies Institute,
Miriam College, Katipunan Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

Dolphy's insensitive joke

IN AN EFFORT to defend his friend and presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr., comedy king Dolphy has made a careless, insensitive remark against people with the Down syndrome.

Interviewed by the press during a campaign sortie in Bicol, Dolphy, who was with FPJ's entourage, remarked: "*Hindi naman tanga 'yan eh. Hindi naman 'yan parang* mongoloid."

Mr. Quizon's statement mirrors his prejudice against people with mental disability. Whether it was uttered in jest or not is out of the question. To defend a character by comparing him or her to a person with a handicap smacks of disrespect and disregard for other people's sensitivity.

Mr. Quizon should apologize. He may be the "king of comedy" but this time, no one's laughing.

—LOI REYES LANDICHO
3/F Jacinta Bldg. 2
Guadalupe, Edsa Makati City

Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc.

Presents

1st Buntis Assembly
" The Ultimate of Womanhood"

MEGAMALL
March 10-13, 2004
10:00 am - 8:00 pm (Wed. - Sat.)
MegaTrade Hall 3
Mandaluyong City

Register and be a member of the Assembly
"ARAW NG BUNTIS"
a nationwide celebration on March 10, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

Workshop and Seminar/Sessions conducted by POGS affiliated/members doctors
Topics on:
Responsible Parenthood/Motherhood and other Pre-natal Care
Pre-Pregnancy/Pregnancy
Preparing for the New Baby
Childbirth and Beyond
Lamaze method
Pregnancy complications & problems

- *Registrants become automatic members of the assembly*
- *The Buntis registrant will be part of the database that will receive information or updates on pregnancy care*
- *Free Clinics/Check-up and Ultrasound*
- *Fun Games, Product Sampling, and Demonstration*
- *Sales and product showcase at low price...*
- *Q&A sessions*

Let us edify "Buntis" as a solemn virtue of a woman. It is something that should be looked forward to, prepared for and set as a goal by young people at the proper time in their lives. It should never be taken as merely a consequence of being a woman.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2004 Officers

ROSENDO R. ROQUE, M.D.
President
EVELYN P. PALAYPAYON, M.D.
Vice President
SUSAN PELEA-NAGTALON, M.D.
Secretary
SYLVIA de las ALAS-CARNERO, M.D.
Treasurer
DITAS CRISTINA D. DECENA, M.D.
Public Relations Officer

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
VIRGILIO B. CASTRO, M.D.
Region 4-A, NCR

BOARD MEMBERS

MAYUMI S. BISMARK, M.D.
LOURDES BLANCO-CAPITO, M.D.
MARIO R. FESTIN, M.D.
GIL S. GONZALES, M.D.
ROGELIO P. MENDIOLA, M.D.
REGTA L. PICHAY, M.D.

COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL
& PERINATAL WELFARE

REGTA L. PICHAY, M.D.
RAMON M. GONZALES, M.D.
MA. SOCORRO M. SOLIS, M.D.
RAUL M. QUILLAMOR, M.D.
MARIA VICTORIA V. TORRES, M.D.

To Register:
Type BUNTIS <space> NAME <space> ADDRESS <space>MONTH OF PREGNANCY <space> NAME OF POGS ACCREDITED MEMBER/DOCTOR Send it to 2299

PRIMER PROMOTIONS
Rm. 510 Central Park Bldg.
Makati City
Tel. No.: 808-6899
Telefax: 847-7771

THE NEXT STEP EVENTS PLANNER
Unit 1207 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 813-0148

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Church vows to step up anti-GMO bid

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Justice and Peace Desk (JPD) of the Diocese of Marbel has vowed to intensify the campaign against the field-testing of mutant corn in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area.

Sr. Susan Bolanio, JPD executive director, told reporters here that the Church together with the Koalisyon para sa Karapatang Pantao (KKP) is drawing up plans to pressure the government, including the proponents of biotechnology, to stop the field release of Bt-corn.

The group recently got a big morale booster when preliminary results of the tests conducted on blood samples taken from 38 tribal residents of a farming village in Polomolok town, South Cotabato yielded positive of Bt-toxin.

Although the result is not yet conclusive, Bolanio said the Church would continue with its advocacy work unless there is scientific research that could prove gene-altered corn is safe for humans and the environment.

The JPD, through the help of local health authorities, conducted a medical mission in Sitio Kalyong, Barangay Landan in Polomolok town, South Cotabato when tribal residents in the area complained of headache, flu, vomiting, exhaustion and skin allergies.

Illnesses

The victims, who were living within the 100-meter radius of the field testing site, claimed that they experienced such unusual illnesses during the flowering stage of Bt-corn planted by the multi-national seed giant Monsanto Philippines.

Norwegian genetic engineer Dr. Terje Traavik brought the blood samples taken from the affected tribal residents to his laboratory at the Norway Institute of Gene Ecology.

Bolanio said the *lumad* were pleased upon learning of the results of the preliminary study.

"They (tribals) were pleased that they were able to contribute something for the good of the community," Bolanio said.

Tribal residents, Bolanio said, are strongly urging the government and Monsanto to stop conducting field tests of genetically modified corn in the area.

Traavik told reporters here last week that although there was no scientific literature that could prove whether biotechnology is harmful or not to humans and the environment, government must be careful in allowing the entry, field release and commercialization of mutant corn.

"Biotechnology is unpredictable, unreliable and uncontrollable," Traavik warned. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Don't blame Church for population boom—bishop

BONTOC, Mt. Province—The Catholic Church, which some groups blame for the country's increasing population, actually acknowledges the problem and favors population control, according to a bishop here.

"But it is wrong to blame the Church for the country's growing population because of its emphasis on natural family planning methods," Bishop Francisco Claver of the Diocese of Bontoc-Lagawe told the INQUIRER.

Granting that the Church approves of abortion and other artificial methods, these won't automatically solve the population problem because of many factors, he said.

Claver cited the cultural factor, particularly in rural farming villages where parents prefer more children because they believe that more children would mean more hands to help them out in the farm.

In wrestling with this cultural factor, the Church stresses on spacing to help ensure the health of both mother and children, he said.

But he said controlling and managing the country's population do not rely only on spacing births.

"It had been proven that average Filipinos who were given the opportunity to pursue their education and who eventually become more economically well off tend to marry later in life and bear fewer children," Claver said.

He stressed the need to prioritize education and economic opportunities for poor Filipinos who, ironically, raise bigger families.

And if the Catholic Church continues to stress on natural family planning and responsible parenthood, it is because these are "the most loving and cheapest way" to control and manage births, he said.

Claver said some developed countries are strongly pushing for artificial methods of birth control because of an underlying agenda—profit.

Artificial birth control methods—from sterilization injections to pills—mean big business, he said.

Claver said it is unfortunate that some government health personnel promoting these artificial methods do not always explain to mothers their adverse side effects. He said some women have practically become "guinea pigs" in some experiments for these artificial methods.

To explain how natural birth control methods and responsible parenthood works, Claver cited the Couples for Christ (CFC) in his diocese. *Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE FIRST sitting President after Marcos to campaign for a full-term, Ms Macapagal reaches out to students of Pangasinan in a truck. The campaign of Ms Macapagal, however, continues to be hounded with accusations of cheating. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Church people learn about poll cheating for honest elections

BONTOC, Mt. Province—Roman Catholic parishioners here are seriously learning the anatomy and mechanics of election cheating so they would know how to help ensure the sanctity of the ballot on May 10, a bishop said.

"We have tapped teachers, who witnessed how election cheating happened in the past, to teach and prepare our volunteers about how to help prevent cheating on election day and during the counting (of votes)," Bishop Francisco Claver of the Diocese of Bontoc-Lagawe said.

He said lay people in the villages of Mt. Province and Ifugao are organizing themselves as volunteers of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV).

On the day of the election, PPCRV volunteers will use two-way radios and mobile phones to immediately report any form of cheating, he said.

Claver said a clean and honest election is more important than the politicians who would win in the elections.

"What matters is that those who win must win honestly," he said. "We have to ensure that the elections are clean, honest and credible because what we must strengthen is the electoral democratic process."

Otherwise, those who win by cheating will only court destabilization and further conflict, he warned.

Despite the movie, TV and basketball stars seeking public office, Claver sees hope in the country's electoral process.

He said through voters' education, which the PPCRV and other groups continue to initiate even after elections, the electorate in the future will gradually mature and will eventually vote for more deserving and qualified leaders.

"Let us not give up hope," he said. "Let us continue educating our people because it is through education that they become empowered," he said. *Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Left faction says 4 Bataan farmers nabbed by Army in Tagaytay tortured

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Military intelligence agents used torture on four Bataan farmers' organizers arrested in Tagaytay City on Thursday, their relatives and the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya said on Sunday.

Millet Morante, KPD secretary-general, claimed that agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) applied the "water cure" on Harold Gadian and Edgardo de Jesus throughout their 24-hour interrogation.

Morante, citing the accounts of the suspects' relatives and the human rights advocacy group Central Luzon People's Response on Total Emancipation (CL Protect), said the agents continuously poured cold water on Gadian and De Jesus while they were being questioned.

De Jesus, while still blindfolded, was released somewhere along Edsa at about 11 a.m. on Friday.

Gadian, Victor Serrano, Domingo Alcantara and Joven Cunanan were found in Camp Aguinaldo at about 2 p.m. Friday through the help of lawyer Theodore Te of the Free Legal Assistance Group.

Serrano was not hurt. His wife Lolita de la Cruz insisted on staying with him. De la Cruz was with the 20 people arrested in a house in Barangay Mendez, Tagaytay.

But Col. Daniel Lucero, AFP spokesperson, denied the reports of torture.

"We did not hurt them. They were not tortured. They incurred bruises as a result of the scramble. They jumped off from the fence when they tried to evade arrest," Lucero told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said the Isafp is still holding Gadian, Alcantara, Cunanan and Serrano for murder, frustrated murder and direct assault charges. Their arrests were made with warrants, Lucero added.

He said the four men are members of the Bataan provincial party committee of the Marxist Leninist Party of the Philippines-Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan.

He said the AFP would release the findings of the suspects' physical examination to disprove the allegations of torture.

The suspected rebels' relatives said Gadian and De Jesus were "relentlessly" punched in the chest, slapped in the face and their heads banged on the wall every time the intelligence agents were not satisfied with their answers. Alcantara and Cunanan underwent the same ordeal.

A dog chain was used to strangle Gadian, the relatives said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Luzon Ombudsman wants Lapid case junked

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez has recommended to the Sandiganbayan the dismissal of a graft case against Gov. Manuel Lapid and six others involved in the alleged illegal collection of quarry revenues in Pampanga.

Fernandez's decision, signed on Jan. 6 and furnished the provincial capitol last week, came almost five years after Lapid and his co-accused sought separate motions for reinvestigation and reconsideration in August 1999.

Jesus Micael, special prosecution officer, conducted the review and recommended the dismissal in December 2002.

Special prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo and deputy special prosecutor Robert Kallos concurred while prosecution bureau director Humprey Monteroso disagreed with Micael's decision.

Former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto filed the case in October 1998 based on the findings and recommendation of the National Bureau of Investigation's anti-organized crime division.

The NBI acted on the complaint of quarry operators who alleged in July 1998 that Lapid and his co-accused conspired in the collection of P120 for every truckload of sand without issuing any receipts.

That amount was aside from the P40-tax that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan allowed the provincial quarry task force to collect.

Lapid's co-accused were former Vice Gov. Clayton Olalia, former provincial treasurer Jovito Sabado, Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, Lapid's brother-in-law SPO4 Nestor Tadeo, Conrado Pangilinan Jr. and Rodrigo Fernandez.

The alleged irregularity was "plain hearsay," Micael said. He said there was "absence of any proof of conspiracy."

The Sandiganbayan will review the case.

Lapid on Monday denied that the favorable decision was a concession from President Macapagal-Arroyo in exchange for his joining the K-4 senatorial slate.

"Why would the President intervene in my case when she has not intervened in the alleged money laundering case involving First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo?" he said.

The quarry case, he said, was "politically motivated" and "form of harassment" by deposed President Joseph Estrada and his political allies in Pampanga. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Sack of guns seized from ATO exec, wife

DAVAO CITY—An official of the Air Transportation Office (ATO) in Cebu City and his wife were arrested for alleged gunrunning at a checkpoint in Calinan District here on Sunday morning.

Supt. Aaron Aquino, Regional Mobile Group (RMG) commander, identified the arrested suspects as Manuel Matig-a, 40, officer in charge of the ATO-Cebu International Airport Power Plant, and his wife Miguela.

Aquino said members of the RMG unit at the checkpoint seized from Matig-a 12 pieces of .38 caliber revolvers and a .45 caliber pistol which the policemen found placed in a sack.

Upon interrogation, Matig-a claimed this was the third time for him to deliver guns to the Davao region, Aquino said.

Matig-a refused to be interviewed by reporters.

Aquino said Matig-a claimed that from Cebu, he and his wife traveled to Cagayan de Oro where they boarded an L-300 van that they hired on their way to Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur where they were supposed to deliver five handguns to another gunrunner.

He said the suspects told policemen that the other guns were supposed to be sold to buyers in Davao City with the .45 caliber pistol being sold at P7,000 each, while the .38 caliber revolver at P3,500 each.

Aquino said authorities are preparing charges against the Matig-a couple for violating the Commission on Elections gun ban and Presidential Decree 1866, the law that regulates the possession of guns.

The election law prohibits the carrying of firearms during the election period unless it is permitted by the Comelec. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ACTION ON GOV'S CONCERN

3 Negros Oriental cops sacked over drugs

DUMAGUETE CITY—Senior Supt. Amaron Morrok, Negros Oriental police director, has ordered the relief of three policemen who are suspected to be involved in illegal drug activities.

He said one of these policemen was assigned to Dumaguete City and two were from the 705th Provincial Mobile Group.

Morrok said his office was waiting for a clearance from the Commission on Elections before implementing the relief order.

Transfer of government employees is not allowed during the election period unless approved by the Comelec.

Morrok said the police officers would be transferred to remote police stations so they would not have access to known drug dens in the city.

He said he could not file charges against the policemen on their alleged involvement in illegal drugs due to the absence of concrete evidence that could stand in court.

"What we have is only information that these policemen have associated themselves with known drug personalities in the city," said Morrok.

He said the information was reliable because it came from civilians and police personnel but it would not be enough to pin down the three policemen in court.

The relief order came after Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said he has yet to see concrete action against policemen who were involved in illegal drug activities.

He said the people would not trust the government's campaign against the drug menace if the law enforcers themselves were involved in it.

Dumaguete City Mayor Agustin Perdices urged the police hierarchy to remove policemen in the city who were either drug users or protectors of illegal drug activities.

Late last year, four police officers were relieved from Dumaguete due to their alleged involvement in illegal drugs. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MSI PAYROLL
FAST ● COMPLETE ● ACCURATE
used by more than 1,000 companies nationwide.
● OTHER PRODUCTS:
PROFIT RETAIL System (Inventory • Sales Manager / POS • P.O. • A.R.)
MSI Daily Time Recording (DTR) System, MSI Recruitment System,
MSI Personnel Information System (PIS)
ATTN.: MSI PAYROLL USER Latest version with the new PHIC Table for Premium Contribution for 2004 is now available.
METROSOFT, INC.
Free Demo w/in M.M.
[illegible]

Erap's jail guards axed

From page A1

al unit, and his 14 men would face administrative charges, the PNP chief said. Ysulat could not be reached for comment.

Tapped to lead the investigation were Director Eduardo Matillano, PNP director for investigation and detective management, and Sacramento.

Critics said the special treatment accorded Estrada by the administration was aimed at currying favor with Estrada's followers. President Macapagal-Arroyo said Thursday she saw nothing wrong with treating a former president with dignity.

The arrangement drew flak from private prosecutors.

Lawyer Marichu Lambino said he would file charges against Ms Macapagal, Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, Ebdane, Sacramento and Estrada's guards "for conniving or consenting with evasion of imprisonment" of an accused, which is punishable under the revised Penal Code.

Lambino said Ms Macapagal and the other officials were also liable for contempt for disobeying the Sandiganbayan order that Estrada be detained at Camp Capinpin.

PNP clears GMA

But Ebdane cleared Ms Macapagal of responsibility over the supposedly lax detention of her predecessor.

"With all candor I would say she has nothing to do with this," he told reporters at a press conference. Ebdane cleared his commander in chief shortly after he ordered the relief of the guards.

Before the investigation could start, Sacramento had maintained that Estrada could not have slipped out of Capinpin, headquarters of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

Sacramento said he had been visiting the former President at least three times a week to personally check if Estrada was in his cell and was not being given special treatment. But no less than Estrada had admitted that he had entertained visitors at his nearby villa.

Estrada took back the statement that he made to the INQUIRER on Friday that he had been allowed by Sacramento and Ebdane to stay at his rest house once or twice a week, especially when he had many visitors.

Mass, birthday party

He admitted that the two police officials allowed him to hear Mass in his private chapel in the villa every Sunday.

"Actually, since I was transferred here, I only visited the [villa] on two occasions. The first was during Christmas Day when busloads of people from the province visited me. The second was when my son Jinggoy celebrated his birthday," Estrada said yesterday.

During Jinggoy's birthday last month, he said they had to ask their police escorts to allow them to celebrate at the rest house because of the big number of guests, including Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, ex-Sen. Ernesto Herrera, Juan Ponce Enrile and other senatorial candidates of the opposition's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Nothing unlawful

Malacañang yesterday insisted that there was nothing unlawful in letting Estrada go into virtual house arrest with his regular visits to his villa.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that at no time was Estrada out of the custody of his guards. Bunye said the Sandiganbayan merely ordered the PNP to keep him in custody and to make him available for the court process.

"He's always with his guards and the rest house is only 100 meters away. At any point, he's always under the control of the jailers," Bunye said.

Bunye said that if Estrada did make a visit to his villa, it was still within the law because there was no instance when the instructions to the jailers to keep him secure and available for processes had ever been violated.

Clammed up

After justifying Estrada's transfer to his villa, Ms Macapagal yesterday clammed up on the controversy, but her aides insisted that the PNP was responsible for any breach of detention rules.

"Well, I leave that to my spokesperson to answer," the President said at a press conference at the Dagupan Astrodome in Dagupan City where she spoke about her student loan program and distributed Philhealth insurance cards to the poor.

She repeated her response four more times when a reporter asked about the filing of charges against her and Estrada's custodians.

But Heherson Alvarez, one of those who filed the impeachment case against Estrada and was passed up as a senatorial candidate of the President's K-4 coalition, warned her against giving political accommodation to her predecessor.

Alvarez, Ms Macapagal's former presidential adviser on overseas Filipinos, said there was a thin line between political accommodation and a humanitarian act.

"If his visitation there (at his rest house) is more than regular, then it's soft-padding his detention. If it becomes already his quarters, then it is accommodation," Alvarez, who is running for senator as an independent, said.

"It will be a very bad signal to the country at large if we're giving him everything. I don't think we should allow him to stay in his villa," Alvarez said, adding that the privilege could also be invoked by detained Moro rebel Nur Misuari.

Defensor, campaign spokesperson for the President, insisted that it was not Ms Macapagal who authorized Estrada's transfer to his villa. "It's the responsibility of the Sandiganbayan to look into what's happening with the PNP," he said.

He said Ms Macapagal remained open to the idea of house arrest for Estrada, although he noted that the Sandiganbayan had denied Estrada's motion for such a status.

"I think so," Defensor said, noting Ms Macapagal's statement as early as 2001 when she came to power that she was for granting Estrada humane treatment.

Asked if house arrest should happen during the election period, Defensor said: "It should have happened two years ago."

Reviving motion

Estrada yesterday asked his lawyers to file a motion with the anti-graft court asking that he be placed under house arrest on his 15-hectare farm in Tanay.

"We are reviving the motion for house arrest in my rest house because the living conditions here in Camp Capinpin is really bad," he said of his 100-square-meter detention quarters.

Estrada recalled that former Indonesian President Suharto, who is being tried for graft, was under house arrest.

He said former strongman Ferdinand Marcos also placed slain Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. under house arrest and granted him a Christmas furlough even after Aquino had been convicted of rebellion.

"We are supposedly a Catholic country and yet we are harsh to former leaders," Estrada said, comparing himself with Suharto, a Muslim. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Stiffer penalties for men . . .

From page A1

passing the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada and Speaker Jose de Venecia, sponsors of the bill also known as Republic Act No. 9262, witnessed the signing along with top women officials.

The Kalakasan (Strength) Foundation, a group that works against domestic violence, said the law was the culmination of over a decade of legislative work.

Men who abuse their female partners or their children can now get up to 16 years in jail. The offense used to fall under inflicting injury on another person, which fetched a sentence of six years in jail.

A 2003 survey showed that 9 percent of Filipino women had been harmed by their partners.

Kalakasan explained that the law protected only women and children because there were no statistics showing men on the receiving end of domestic abuse.

'Purple protest'

Gabriela members staged a rally in Manila to call for a rollback in prices of basic commodities and oil.

Gabriella secretary general Emmi de Jesus, speaking in a gathering of 500 at the Plaza Miranda, said the worsening economic situation in the country was especially hard on women who handled the family budget.

The group's members in Southern Tagalog led a "purple protest" in Calamba City, vowing to "campaign hard" against the President, who had "become a loyal backer of anti-woman policies."

Women workers, farmers, urban poor, youth, indigenous people and small local entrepreneurs waved purple and white ribbons and pushed for "genuine political change," specifically on the issues of just wages, jobs and benefits.

Helen Asdolo, regional secretary, said Ms Macapagal's economic agenda led to the "inhuman state" of thousands of Filipino women, especially those working in garment factories and the semi-conductor industry in Calabarzon and other industrial zones.

The President would see "real women power" in May, Asdolo vowed.

Similar activities were held in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, Export Processing Zone Authority and Paliparan in Cavite, Batangas City and Balayan in Batangas, Lucena City in Quezon, and Sablayan in Mindoro Occidental.

In Legazpi City, Gabriela gathered more than 500 women at the Quezon Avenue rotunda and called for stable jobs, sufficient food supply and delivery of basic services for women throughout the country.

Ginalyn Nagrampa, Bicol coordinator, said simultaneous protests were held in the region's six provinces.

Members in Iloilo City spent the morning touring four public markets, crossing-out posters of liquor products depicting nude or scantily clad women.

In Dagupan City, presidential candidate Raul Roco said men and women were not equal until they were made to suffer the same penalty for acts of infidelity.

Roco said he would push for an amendment to the law which currently imposes stiffer penalties on unfaithful women.

He lamented that the law punished adultery by two to six years in prison, and concubinage by "*destierro*" (six months during which the husband is banned from going near his spouse) to six months in prison.

"That's terrible," Roco said in a press briefing in Calasiao town, on the second and final day of his Alyansa ng Pag-Asa's campaign sortie in Pangasinan. Adultery and concubinage should both be renamed "infidelity of the spouse" and carry the same penalty, he said.

Asian conference

Some 200 indigenous women's rights advocates from 13 countries donned traditional clothes and joined a rally marking IWD on Session Road in Baguio City.

The women were delegates to the Asia Indigenous Women's Conference last week. Aside from the Philippines, the countries represented were Burma, Malaysia, Thailand, Kyrgyztan, Nepal, India, Japan, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Mongolia.

In their declaration, the women said: "We take stock of our situation as women, and as indigenous peoples, commit ourselves to the fullest exercise of our rights toward self-determination, non-discrimination and equality for all the peoples of the world."

In Cagayan de Oro City, Women's Day was highlighted by a funeral march for the remains of Louella Montenegro, a Filipina who died while working in Lebanon.

Montenegro's family and friends blamed her death on government negligence. They said the Overseas Workers Welfare Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Northern Mindanao failed to act on their request for Louella's immediate repatriation.

The young woman had earlier complained of maltreatment by her Lebanese employer. She was found dead after allegedly jumping from the third floor of her employer's house.

A march and a rally commemorating Women's Day was also held in Davao City.

Many women workers continue to be victims of discrimination, harassment and abuse in their work places, according to the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

This, it said, was based on a recent study conducted in mid-2001 through 2002 by 202 firms located in industrial zones in Laguna, Bataan, Clark, Cavite, Subic, Tarlac and in Metro Manila.

Portions of the study, conducted by the TUCP with the Solidarity Center, was released by its party-list group Trade Union Congress Party. The results showed, for example, that in many instances, women workers were not allowed back to work after giving birth.

Another company avoided granting maternity benefits by placing pregnant women on forced leave without pay from the fourth month of their pregnancy till a year after giving birth.

The TUCP said in a statement: "It is appalling to see women continuing to endure these unfair labor conditions."

In Indonesia, domestic violence was also the focus of Women's Day.

The Jakarta Post said in an editorial that the parliament had passed a bill to curb domestic violence but that its signing by the president had been delayed for unexplained reasons.

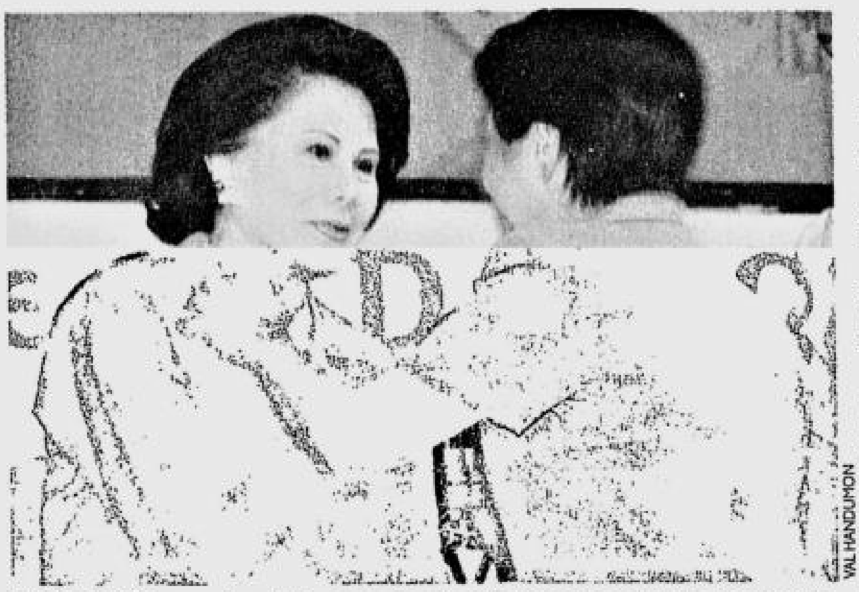
Rita Serena Kolibonso, head of a pro-women group, described the problem in her country as "a hidden crime, as our system does not allow the emergence of such cases in court."

In Taiwan, President Chen Shui-bian raised the prospect of appointing the island's first woman prime minister if he wins his reelection battle on March 20, according to local media reports.

Flower sellers in Vietnam cashed in on one of the busiest days of the year, when husbands pamper their wives and children, and thank their mothers and teachers. Many state companies organized tours for female employees or gave them free cinema tickets.

But Stalinist North Korea marked the day with a call for women to give birth to more children and take a leading role in reviving the country's moribund economy.

The ruling party newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in an editorial monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency: "Women have the heavy duty of providing the succeeding generation of the military-oriented revolution." *TJ Burgonio, Martin P. Marfil, Jerome Aning and Leila Salaverria in Manila; Marlon Ramos, Joyce Mejillano and Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Agence France Presse*



VAL HANDUMON

PRESIDENT Macapagal greets Sen. Luisa Ejercito, wife of her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada, during the celebration of International Women's Day at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Opposition . . .

From page A1

ing a neutral stand on the issue last year.

"She could very well have taken a forceful definitive stand on Charter change before the election season," he added.

Presidential candidate Raul Roco, standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa, said the last thing the country needed was a transition government.

"Why should we elect a transition government? You want to be in transition, you can go away, and leave the permanent work to others. There cannot be a transition government every three years," Roco said in Dagupan City.

"With the rapid changes in the global village, you cannot have one transition government after another," he added.

Roco said Ms Macapagal had bungled her chance to serve as transition president when she assumed power after the ouster of Joseph Estrada in Edsa II three years ago.

But reelectionist Sen. Robert Barbers, who is running under Ms Macapagal's ticket, said critics should give the President the benefit of the doubt.

"Imagine, she would be willing to become a transition president in order to make a smooth transition from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government? That's her ultimate sacrifice. While others are running for a six-year position, President Macapagal-Arroyo is willing to step down after three years," Barbers said.

"As it is, we have a two-chamber Congress plus the bicameral conference committee. Much-needed reforms are then buried in red tape and legislative gridlock. It's high time that we do away with the presidential system of government, which has failed us," he added.

Barbers said a federal system would favor Mindanao and other poor regions because they would be allowed to chart their own development independent of "imperial Manila."

Lawmakers from Mindanao also lauded Ms Macapagal's support for a shift to a parliamentary government under a federal system and her willingness to serve as transition president.

Representatives Mayo Almario of Davao Oriental, Benasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur, Isidro Real of Zamboanga del Sur, and Vincent Garcia of Davao City said people in Mindanao had longed for a federal type of government. *Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Cynthia D. Balana*

Tanong ng Bayan

INQ TV

Ngayong Alas-10 Ng Gabi

Niluluto ba ang mga survey?

Statistically tied daw sina
Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
at Fernando Poe Jr. sa pinakahuling survey
ng Social Weather Stations at Pulse Asia.
Marami ang nagtaka: nagkalutuan na ba?
Sasagutin ngayong gabi nina
Mareng Winnie Monsod,
ex-Rep. Mike Romero ng KNP,
at ng Social Weather Stations.
Alas-10 ng gabi, sa INQTV on ABC.

ABC

Bro. Eddie's wife takes on debate dare

From page A1

those aspiring for the country's top post should also be made public, especially regarding the issue of how they would handle the trappings that come with the position.

Roco, also the proponent of public debates for presidential candidates, proudly offered up his wife Sonia as a participant, saying she was a London-trained "champion orator" who was ready to face the challenge.

The first taker, Dory, said she had no qualms about joining if the debates were done professionally and would not become a venue for mere arguments and fighting. "*Basta walang bastusan* (As long as there's no mudslinging)," she told the INQUIRER.

Dory, who also preaches in Christian gatherings, said she would also want the debates to center on issues and the role of a president's spouse in support of his or her partner.

"Actually, a president's wife or husband should have no role in the affairs of government. They should be there to support their spouses," she said.

No meddling

She stressed that if her husband becomes president, she would not meddle in government affairs, but if pressed for suggestions, she would push for better education and the accessibility of this to the youth.

In her first speech before a rally for Villanueva in Puerto Princesa City on Sunday night, Dory criticized the government for using the lack of a budget as an excuse for the poor state of public schools in the country.

But while Villanueva's wife welcomes the debates, Fernando Poe Jr.'s reluctance to join seemed to have rubbed off on his youth supporters.

"Talk is cheap," said the Kabataang Pinoy, an organization of student leaders from various universities and colleges nationwide supporting the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), so it does make sense for Poe, who has declined to participate in two scheduled debates among presidential candidates, "not to be dragged into a pointless debate."

Said Mark Infante of the Western Mindanao University: "FPJ is correct; what we need is honest labor from our leaders and not talk."

Launching

Ibba Rasul, a son of opposition senatorial candidate Amina Rasul and once a member of the De La Salle University debating team, agreed: "One can debate on any thing. But the youth is tired of promises. At the end of the day, we want people to show us what they can do."

The Kabataang Pinoy, which was launched yesterday with Toni Leviste, stepdaughter of Poe's running mate Loren Legarda as honorary chairperson, said it could deliver 12.9 million youth votes for Poe, Legarda and the rest of the KNP's national slate.

Poe, however, was a no-show at the launching held at the Manila Yacht Club. KNP media bureau chief Rod Reyes said he was not aware that Poe was expected at the affair.

The group's advisory committee includes former Pangasinan Rep. Ranjit Shahani, a nephew of former President Fidel Ramos; actor Richard Gomez and former actor and now Manila Councilor Isko Moreno.

Legarda thanked the KNP youth supporters, enjoining them to help secure not only the opposition's victory in the May 10 elections but also the "victory of our future." *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Duty-free pork eyed to stop hike of meat prices

By Ronnel Domingo and Christine Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT is studying measures that would allow the importation of pork at zero tariff to temper rising prices of meat that, as of Friday, ranged from P140 to P190 per kilo, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima yesterday said.

The announcement came after a three-day "pig holiday," or a temporary halt in the supply of pork, which meat dealers held over the weekend.

In an interview, Purisima said that the move to allow pork imports would complement efforts toward easing the importation of farm inputs, such as corn and soybean meal, and amino acids.

"Prices right now are beyond what is reasonable," The official said. "To make sure that there is enough supply at more reasonable prices, we have decided to allow the importation of pork."

Francisco J. Buencamino, executive director of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi), said during a telephone interview that he was not at all sure whether the move would actually push down market prices.

"We see problems on who are allowed to import," Buencamino said. "(Of the allowed imports of 53,003 metric tons a year,) the government is allotting 60 percent of imports to the hog raisers and 40 percent to traders."

Meat dealers are also up in arms over the move of the Department of Agriculture allowing the hog raisers to increase meat prices at the expense of consumers.

Members of the Meat and Hog Dealers of the Philippines (MHDAP) want a rollback in farm gate prices to P82 per kilo, so that retail prices may be lowered to P125 per kilo. At present, the farmgate price of hogs is pegged at P93 per kilo.

Agriculture officials has recommended the establishment of a direct link among market vendors, slaughterhouse operators and hog raisers.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said the agency is also looking at the possibility of eliminating the dealers' group.

Fireman wounded in Malabon slum blaze

By Tina Santos

A VOLUNTEER fireman was hurt, while some 1,500 families were rendered homeless after a fire swept through four street blocks in Malabon Sunday night.

Arson investigators initially placed the damage at P20 million.

Volunteer firefighter Wilfredo Martin, 42, was immediately taken to the Manila Central University Hospital.

The fire began on the second floor of the two-story apartment on Atis Road, Barangay Potrero at 8:59 p.m. The house was occupied by a Letty Estucado and her family.

The blaze razed houses on Maligaya, Atis, Duhat and Guava Streets. It was put out about seven hours later.

Some 30 fire trucks joined the battle against the blaze, which was fanned by strong winds. The firemen had difficulty putting out the fire because of the narrow alleyways.

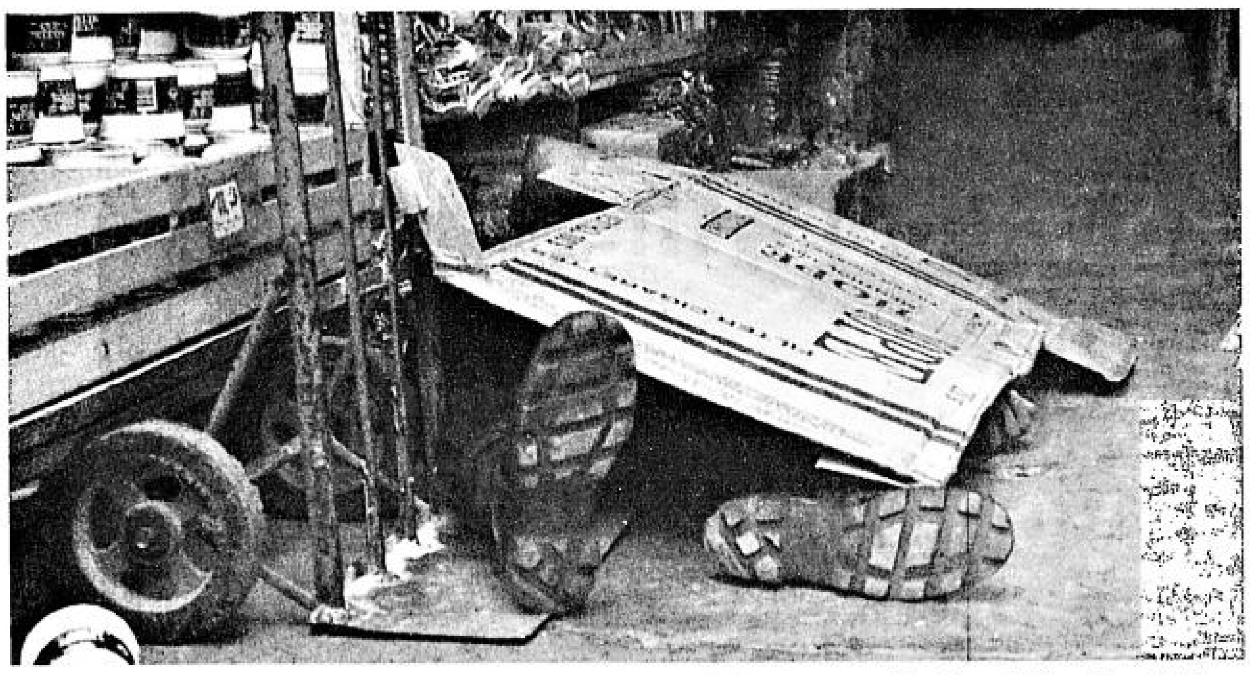
Some firemen also claimed that there had been residents who harassed them by forcibly taking their water hoses.

There were also some residents who allegedly poked a gun at the firefighters.

At least 200 fire victims have been relocated to the Potrero Elementary School.

According to arson investigators, the fire was caused by an untended candle.

Three of the worst fires that broke out in north Metro Manila in 2003 were caused by unattended candles.



A PIECE of cardboard covers the body of the security guard who was slain in a shootout with robbers in Montalban, Rizal. Later that day, lawmen caught up and killed two of the suspects. RUDY ESPERAS

3 killed in armored van robbery try

By Luige del Puerto

A SECURITY guard and two suspected robbers yesterday were killed in a shootout in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, police said.

At least three others, including a 9-year-old girl, were reportedly wounded in the incident.

Those injured are now confined at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City, police said.

Senior Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Rizal Police chief, said at least four robbers on board two motorcycles blocked the armored car of Safeguard Security in front of the Suave grocery store in Barangay San Jose at 12:30 p.m.

The armored car was supposedly collecting the earnings of the store, located at the San Jose Public Market, when the suspects "immediately fired at the guards, hitting one of them," Santiago said.

The suspects, armed with 9-mm and .45-caliber pistols, met stiff resistance from the other guards and decided to retreat.

Santiago said it is unclear if the robbers had taken any cash during the heist.

The police said when the first shot rang out, lawmen from a nearby police station responded and chased the suspects all the way down to Latex Road.

The police caught up with two suspects. They were killed on the spot, police said.

The two other suspects managed to escape, driving off in a Toyota Revo after they ditched their motorcycle, police said.

METROBRIEFS

3 robbery suspects slain

THREE suspected car thieves were killed in a shootout with members of the Traffic Management Group of the national police early yesterday morning. Larry Cayma, 25, Rey Tabuldo, 27, and Narciso Torejes, 27, reportedly took the taxi of driver Alex Madrid at 12:15 a.m. upon reaching Teacher's Village in Quezon City, police said. Madrid sought the help of the police who spotted the stolen cab on the corner of Mindanao and Commonwealth avenues at 2:25 a.m. When the police tried to approach the suspects, they were met by gunfire. The lawmen fired back, killing all three. Police recovered three .38-caliber guns from the suspects. *Tina Santos*

FX taxi robber nabbed

EASTERN Police District lawmen and military troops on Saturday arrested Dennis de la Cruz, 28, for allegedly robbing passengers of an FX taxi. Police said that after the robbers hit the FX taxi of Salvador Hermusa, they got down and boarded another taxi. But Hermusa found the courage to follow the suspects, whose taxi reached a chokepoint on the Marcos Highway in Marikina City. Hermusa then led the police to the taxi of the culprits. The suspects made a dash for it. Police gave chase and cornered De la Cruz. *Luige del Puerto*

Too many fishermen

EIGHTEEN fishermen were rescued off Manila Bay yesterday morning after their fishing boat capsized because of the heavy catch of fish they were carrying. Members of the Philippine Coast Guard spotted the fishermen in at Manila Bay at around 10 a.m. and hauled them to the Coast Guard headquarters in Manila. Reports from the PCG showed that the fishermen had just caught several kilos of fish and were heading home when their boat tilted over. The fishermen told Coast Guard officials that their boat keeled over because, aside from their catch of the day, there were 18 of them on board. *Leila Salaverria*

For want of milk

MICHAEL RIVERA, 25, only wanted to provide for his 5-month-old son. Recently laid off from a construction firm, Rivera and his three friends decided to rob a store on J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Sto. Nino, Marikina City at 7 a.m. Sunday. Rivera, of Quezon City, was caught with a can of milk right inside Alfie's Super Store. His companions, however, managed to escape. Behind bars, Rivera said he could not help feeling sorry for his son. "I only agreed to do it because my son needs the milk, Rivera said." *Luige del Puerto*

Drug suspect takes hostage 2 women, shoots 2 lawmen

TWO POLICEMEN yesterday were shot and wounded when a suspected drug user took hostage two women and tried to shoot his way out in Cubao, Quezon City.

The suspect, identified only as Gilbert, first grabbed the .38-caliber service firearm of Mary Talud, 36, a woman security guard detailed at the Jollibee branch at the Farmer's Plaza on Edsa, according to Supt. Benigno Durana, head of Central Police District Station 7.

CPD Station 7 policemen patrolling the area spotted the suspect at around 11:30 a.m. and gave chase.

To shake off his pursuers, the suspect took hostage Anna Michelle Francisco, 29, and a Maria Lagda.

Authorities tried to persuade the suspect to release the two women but the suspect, who was said to be high on drugs, opened fire, seriously wounding PO1 Diosdado Campos. Another officer, PO1 Rodolfo Chen, was hit in the hand.

The lawmen fired back, wounding the suspect. The two women were not hurt in the shootout, but they were in a state of shock, Durana said.

Campos and the suspect were taken to the Labor Hospital, Durana added. *Tina Santos*

I witnessed the Cubao hostage drama

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I WAS a witness to a hostage drama at the Farmers Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City, yesterday. I witnessed it from start to finish. It started at 11:30 a.m. and ended after half an hour.

I saw how inefficient street cops are in handling a hostage situation. I saw how long it took cops to arrive at the scene. And those cops were not members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT).

I was visiting a friend in Cubao when I heard a shot ring out from across the street from my friend's office.. The office was on the second floor of a building right across the Farmers Plaza. From where I was, I could see a man grappling with a woman. The man was holding a gun to the frightened woman, whose blouse was removed due to the struggle. She was wearing a white bra.

Hostage situation! I told myself. I told my driver who was with me to call the police. At that time there was no cop at the scene. After what seemed like eternity, there was no policeman yet.

So, I ran down from the building and up the pedestrian overpass that separates Farmers Plaza from the other side of Cubao. I was on the other side. I was so overtaken with pity for the poor woman, I decided to get into the action myself. I was thinking of talking with the gunman until policemen arrived at the scene.

When I reached the foot of the overpass at the Farmers Plaza side, the gunman and his hostage were already in the middle of the street in front of Jollibee restaurant. The restaurant is across the place where the gunman held the first woman hostage. The gunman was already way too far for me to have a conversation with him.

The gunman, who had tattered clothes and looked like a drug addict, was holding another woman hostage. Apparently, the first hostage was able to get away, but the gunman took another female passerby. I didn't see the second hostage being taken as I was pushing myself into the thick crowd at the overpass.

From the foot of the overpass, I saw two uniformed cops sneak behind the gunman and his hostage. The gunman had his back against the railings of the Cubao underpass. The two cops hid behind the huge MRT post. Their guns were drawn.

It was then that some cops in civvies arrived at the scene. One of them was asking for a megaphone. There was none.

I saw the gunman and his hostage moving sidewise into the post where the two uniformed cops were positioned.

The cops didn't take advantage of the nearness of the gunman whose back was turned toward them. From where I was I figured that the cops were about five feet away from the hostage-taker. If those two cops have had enough marksmanship training, they could have taken the hostage-taker. They were given an opportunity to shoot him in the head. At that distance—five feet—a trained gunhandler would have had a clear shot at the hostage-taker's head.

Instead of shooting the gunman, the two cops tried to run away.

Bang! The gunman shot one of the cops as they were trying to go around the MRT post to avoid the gunman. The cop was hit in the back.

There were other people hiding behind the huge MRT post, at least two other cops in civvies and a civilian who wanted to help. The civilian was the guy I visited in Cubao—Monching Gavileno, an instructor of aikido, a Japanese martial art. I didn't know that he also ran from his office at the same time that I did.

Monching and the other cops grappled with the gunman. Three shots rang out while the gunman was being wrestled to the ground. When I approached the downed gunman, I saw that he had a gunshot wound in the chest. He's not going to live, I told myself.

And then I saw the uniformed cop being taken inside a police car, a look of shock in his face. I could only sympathize with the poor fellow. I thought to myself he would not have been a casualty had he been trained to shoot. Obviously, like most cops, he didn't know how to handle his issued firearm, a Beretta 9 mm.

The cop was wearing a blue beret, a cap worn by policemen who are members of Special Action Force, an elite unit within the Philippine National Police. The poor guy didn't have enough training, and his superiors sent him out into the asphalt jungle of Metro Manila.

Thank goodness, the two hostages were unharmed! They were just passing by at the Farmers Plaza when fate caught up with them.

* * *

If President Macapagal-Arroyo erred in allowing the detention of former President Erap at his vacation house in Tanay, Rizal, she erred on the side of compassion.

Now, can you blame her for being compassionate to her predecessor even if he is charged with the heinous crime of plunder?

Most civilized countries treat their fallen leaders, charged with crimes while they were in office, with respect. South Korea is an example of how to treat former officials who were charged with crimes committed when they were holding office.

South Korea is not known for being kind to its prisoners. If that country can be compassionate to its detained former leaders, the more so can we expect such attitude from us who pride ourselves as the only Christian country this side of the world.

What's wrong with GMA's critics is that they forget that Erap is our former President. Even discounting the Christian act of charity, Erap should be given the VIP treatment in detention because of his former status.

10 cops hit with human rights raps

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights yesterday filed criminal charges against 10 members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for allegedly maltreating a drug suspect.

Charged with violation of Article 235 of the Revised Penal Code were Insp. Julius Guadamor, SPO2 Roque Bernabeo, PO3 Arnaldo Rico, PO2s Apolinario Palomeno, Ariel Enriquez, Lawrence Perida and Ernesto Pena Jr., and PO1s Rodante Ilumin, Ronaldo de Guzman and Marvyn Quinones.

The 10 men were charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

CHR-National Capital Region Director Jaime Hechanova based the charges on the findings of CHR investigator Bayani Arago.

According to the CHR investigator, the lawmen had tortured Reynaldo Mendoza, 46.

Mendoza bore signs of physical injuries, which were present at the time of his medical examination.

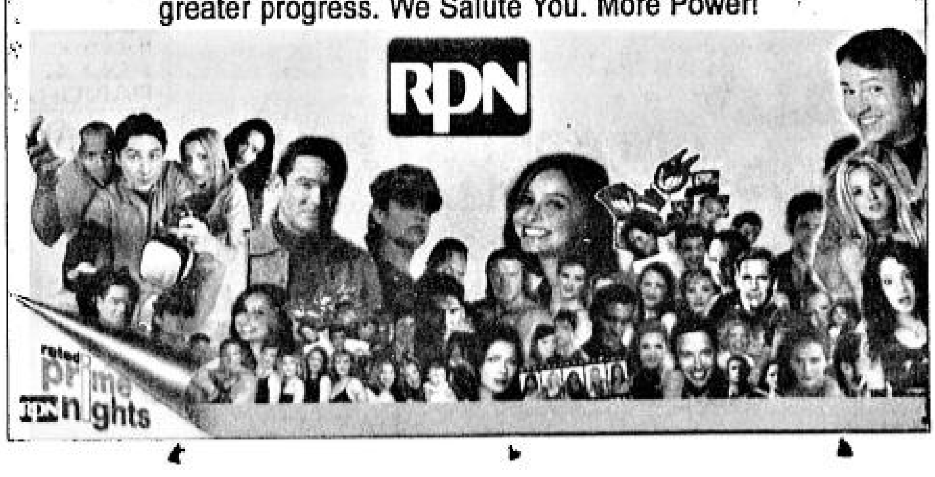
"Torture may have definitely occurred," Arago quoted the CHR medical findings on Mendoza.

Investigation showed that Mendoza, a resident of Muntilupa, was arrested just as he was getting down from a cab near the Baclaran Church on Jan. 9 at around 6 p.m., Arago said. *Tina Santos*

Congratulations
to the new set of officers
of the
ADVERTISING BOARD
OF THE PHILIPPINES

ADBOARD

May the advertising industry continue to march towards greater progress. We Salute You. More Power!



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004
METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

FOUR DIGIT
9 9 5 7
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
9 4 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45
5 25 29 30 35 42

Mapua student in a coma after hazing rites

By Leila Salaverria

AN ENGINEERING student of the Mapua Institute of Technology is now in a coma at the United Doctor's Medical Center after allegedly going through a brutal hazing in the hands of his schoolmates on Friday night.

Victim Benjo Quinit wanted to join the Samahang Ilocano (SI) fraternity, said Supt. Manolo Martinez, Station 4 commander of the Western Police District.

Three Mapua students—Robert James Aladin, 21, a graduating electrical engineering major, Mcrey Patiten, 18, and Auleo Galang, 19—have been arrested and charged with violation of the anti-hazing law.

A 20-year-old witness identified the three as among those who were with Quinit during the initiation rites.

Martinez said two other suspects, SI members Jose Cuelo Jr. and James Asperer, have also been charged, but are still at large.

But Alladin and Galang told a television reporter during an interview that they were outside the house when Quinit allegedly began feeling ill.

They said they took Quinit to the hospital.

Martinez, however, said the two were the ones who apologized to Quinit's family. The suspects even told the TV reporter that they did not mean to harm Quinit.

In his statement, the witness said the suspects, Quinit and another fraternity applicant, arrived at his house in Sampaloc, Manila, on Friday night for the initiation.

He told the police that the SI members got out a paddle, and ordered the witness to leave the house. While outside, the witness said he could hear the paddle blows.

After five minutes, the witness went inside and saw Galang asking Quinit if he could still take what was happening and, if not, to just quit.

Quinit answered: "*Kaya ko pa*, master. *Hindi lang ako makahinga* (I can still take it, I just can't breathe)."

Patiten then got a glass of water and gave it to Quinit before letting him sit on the couch. The witness said he heard someone say that Quinit was just acting. Later, the witness saw Galang hitting the other applicant with the paddle, while Alladin and Patiten watched.

The witness then said he saw Quinit's head drop. Quinit was then taken to the bathroom where water was splashed on his head.

According to the witness, he and the others watched over Quinit until they saw his hands and soles turn pale. It was then that Galang and Patiten rushed Quinit to the hospital. *With a report from Catherine Sevilla, trainee*

No cutback in Metro water, says MWSS

By Tina Santos

METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System officials yesterday said that there will be no additional cutbacks in the water being supplied to households.

According to Macra Cruz, MWSS deputy administrator, the water supply will remain steady until the start of the rainy season in June.

Earlier, the supply to Metro Manila households was reduced by 5 percent.

"We have no plans to further cut back the water supply," Cruz told the INQUIRER over the telephone. "We're confident that we can still manage to have enough supply of water even during the summer season."

Water supply for each household has been set at 43.7 cubic meters per second, following the cutback in December.

Irrigation water for Central Luzon farmlands has also been reduced by 80 percent.

Cruz explained that the water at the Angat Dam in Bulacan normally decreases during the first few months of the year until mid-May when the rainy season starts. But the water drop this year was faster than usual.

As of yesterday, water elevation at the dam was pegged at 189.93 meters, some 7.5 meters above the forecast of 182.39 meters.

The encouraging readings led to the agency's prognosis that Metro Manila's water supply may hold throughout the summer.

The agency has been closely monitoring the waterline at Angat since January, after the reservoir—and much of Luzon—received unusually little rainfall last year.

To stave off a water crisis, the government, as well as the water sector began imposing water conservation measures.

How does the biggest bank in the world* catch your interest?

By giving you interest.

Introducing our Citibank Peso Power Savings Account.
At 3.5%** interest rate per annum.

All you need is a minimum of PhP100,000 to enjoy this attractive rate. And because it's from Citibank, N.A. Philippine Branch, you can be sure your deposit is backed by the power and stability of a global leader.

- No monthly minimum balance fees
- Access your money anytime, anywhere via: Citibank Online, CitiPhone Banking and BancNet ATMs nationwide

This limited offer expires on May 31, 2004.

Interested?
Call 813-9128 (Metro Manila)
or 234-9088 (Metro Cebu)

Visit www.citibank.com.ph for more information.

* Source: Global Finance, November 2003 / The Wall Street Journal Market Data Group, August 2003
** 3.5% p.a. is subject to change without prior notice. This deposit is only available for new and incremental funds, and payable at Citibank, N.A. Philippines Branch only. Full terms and conditions governing accounts of Citibank, N.A. Philippines apply.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC). Deposits insured up to PhP100,000.

A member of citigroup

citibank

KIA
SEDONA 2.5 V6
LOW MONTHLY PLAN
as low as P11,711*
LOW DOWN PLAN
as low as P199,000 D/P
•RS M/T
*50% D.P. 60 months term

KC 2700 PANORAMIC
as low as P108,000 D/P
•w/o Air-con

LOW DOWN PLAN
FREE
• Comprehensive Insurance (1 yr.)
• Chattel Mortgage Fee
• LTO Registration (1 yr.)
• Seat Cover • Matting • Tint

KIA SORENTO Now Available on a Limited Stock Only!

PREGIO GS NEO
as low as P155,000 D/P
•M/T
*PROMO PERIOD: Extended up to Mar. 31, 2004 *Approved by DTI-NCR

Subject To Bank Approval • Financing Promo 24 months to 48 months

SIGNET
KIA BALINTAWAK
1240 EDSA Balintawak, Q.C
(Sales) 361-0544; 330-8019; 330-6670
(Service) 330-6708; 330-7668
Fax: 362-8357
KIA MANDALUYONG
79 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949; 531-4424 Fax: 531-4380
KIA MAKATI
La Fuerza Plaza
2241 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City
Tels.: 817-8416; 817-8417; 817-8406
Telefax: 817-8421
KIA LAS PIÑAS
(In front of SM Southmall)
Tels.: 801-7656; 801-7668; 802-1024; 806-2235 Telefax 806-2230

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA-Lakers vs Jazz; 10 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Los Angeles, with former Jazz great Karl Malone, visits Utah.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Foster's Australian Grand Prix Race Day; 11 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Take another look at the speed demons in action from Melbourne.

BOXING: Muhammad Ali-the Young Champion; 10 p.m.; Star Sports—Learn more about the greatest boxer of all time.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

TUESDAY,
MARCH 9, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

REGALIA PARK TOWERS

P11,000±
MONTHLY

- Residential Units
- Condotel Units
- Office Units
- Commercial Units

20% DISCOUNT . INTEREST . LOW DP!

CALL NOW: 438 0721 - 22

₱200M needed for 2 SEAG venues

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COUNTRY needs at least P200 million immediately to build and refurbish two facilities needed for the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said yesterday.

Buhain said the amount is part of the agency's P606-million requirement to be able to fulfill its role in the country's hosting of the Games.

The agency has complained about the lack of coordination on the part of the Philippine Olympic Committee regarding its preparations.

"We have started doing our part, which includes the training of the athletes and (the refurbishing of) infrastructures," said Buhain. "We have been reaching out (to the POC) as early as August last year to no avail."

But POC president Celso Dayrit said the PSC doesn't need instructions from the POC because the division of labor is clear between the two bodies.

Dayrit added that there are available venues for the Games in Metro Manila, with the exception of the 70-year-old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex which he describes as unfit to host the SEAG.

"Do they need special instructions from us to maintain the RMSC?" said Dayrit. "It (complex) should be ready to host international competitions at any given time."

The POC chief said it's the PSC's job to keep the RMSC fit for international competitions.

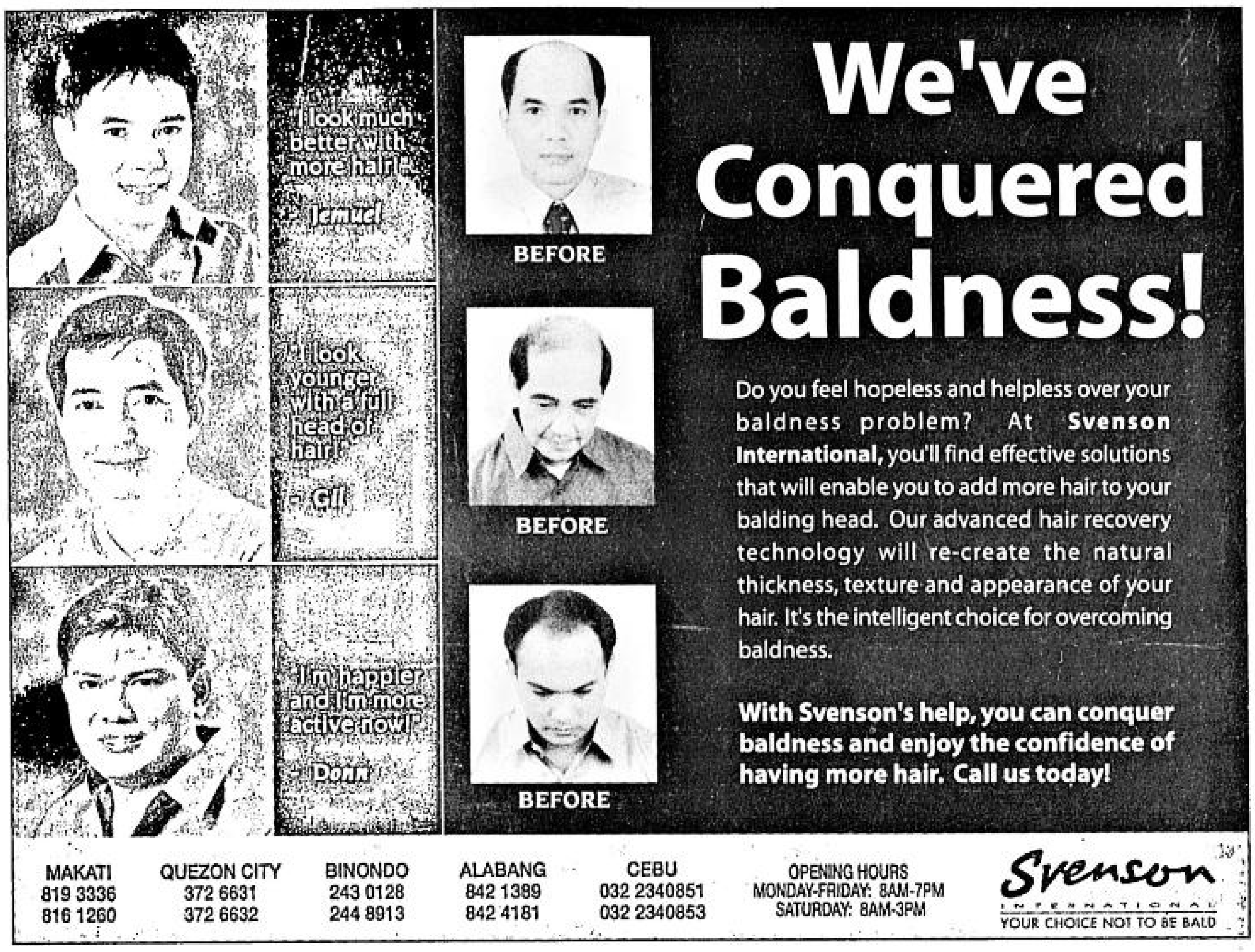
Buhain, however, said the PSC could not make a move unless it is sure that the venue had been tapped by the POC, which controls the Philsoc (SEA Games organizing committee).

But since Dayrit has confirmed the use of the RMSC, Buhain said the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium will have to undergo a facelift—including the resurfacing of the track oval, the refurbishing of the stadium stands and its roofing—which will cost between P50 million and P60 million.

A new electronic timing device will also have to be put up in place of the old one which no longer functions, and this would cost an additional P50 million, Buhain added.

The Rizal aquatics center, according to Buhain, is already dilapidated and won't measure up to international standards. He said repairing the old center would cost as much as building a new one.

He suggested the construction of a new P100 million aquatics center at the reclamation area, which would include warm-up, diving and competition pools.



"I look much better with more hair!"
- Jemuel
"I look younger with a full head of hair!"
- Gil
"I'm happier and I'm more active now!"
- Donn
BEFORE
BEFORE
BEFORE

We've Conquered Baldness!

Do you feel hopeless and helpless over your baldness problem? At **Svenson International,** you'll find effective solutions that will enable you to add more hair to your balding head. Our advanced hair recovery technology will re-create the natural thickness, texture and appearance of your hair. It's the intelligent choice for overcoming baldness.

With Svenson's help, you can conquer baldness and enjoy the confidence of having more hair. Call us today!

MAKATI 819 3336 / 816 1260
QUEZON CITY 372 6631 / 372 6632
BINONDO 243 0128 / 244 8913
ALABANG 842 1389 / 842 4181
CEBU 032 2340851 / 032 2340853
OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8AM-7PM
SATURDAY: 8AM-3PM

Svenson International
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

VVT-i
Passion
SENSE THE MOVEMENT
NEW COROLLA
2004 ALTIS
3 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM
TOYOTA

Time is motion and there's no standing still. You move ahead of the times by taking the lead in setting tomorrow's trends. Like the new Altis. A luxury sedan leading the pack in automotive design and engineering. You have to take its wheel to appreciate its responsive maneuverability. And drive it to thrill at the power of its technically advanced, high performance VVT-i engine. The new Altis. Own one to prove that you were never born a follower.

- *VVT-i engine dramatically improves driving performance and fuel efficiency*
- *All-new, sleek 4-lamp multi-reflector headlights*
- *New rear LED (light emitting diode) combination lamps*
- *Power retractable side view mirrors*
- *Stylish, new 6-spoke alloy wheels*
- *The power driver's seat is 8-way adjustable for greater comfort.*
- *Gate-type, automatic shift lever provides excellent operability.*
- *Rear sunshade for passenger's comfort.*

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 **TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY**, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 **TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY**, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC.** EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 360-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK NORTH**, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 30 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 **TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC.**, Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 **TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC.**, Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 **TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC.**, Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858 9994 (088)858-7770 **TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC.**, 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 **TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE**, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345 8670 **TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH**, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952 1021 to 27 **TOYOTA CUBAO, INC.**, 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 **TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC.** Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522 6771 / 6734 / 4773 **TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE**, Salitran II, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2597 / (02) 529-8115 (trunk line) **TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC.**, Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0908 / (082) 234-2991 / (082) 234-8640 **TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC.**, Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 **TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP.**, Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 **TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION** Brgy. Sto. Niño Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682 9701 to 03 **TOYOTA METROPOLITAN MAKATI INC.**, Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 **TOYOTA OTIS, INC.**, 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 **TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC.**, 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893 8084 **TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC.**, 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 **TOYOTA SHAW, INC.**, 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 / 717-0707 to 08 / 717-0338 to 40 / 727-2387 (telefax) **TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS**, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

www.toyota.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tough team eyes reversal of RP fortunes in Seaba

By Roy Luarca

FOR coach Johnny Tam, the time for revenge has come.

Widely chastised after piloting the Philippine team to a lowly fourth place last year, Tam has vowed to make amends in this year's Southeast Asia Junior Basketball Championship slated April 14-19 at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

"I went down here (Seaba juniors), I'll rise here," said Tam, who was forced to field a ragtag squad in the Kuala Lumpur edition after several schools prevented their players from participating at the last minute.

This year, the Basketball Association of the Philippines has formed a team composed of top players from the country's established leagues to regain the 18-and-under crown from Malaysia.

Tam and deputy coach Ching Marcelino oversee a 16-man squad that practices daily at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in preparation for the tournament, which also serves as a qualifier for the World Youth Basketball Championship.

Among the standouts are San Beda's JR Taganas and Ogie Menor, Adamson's Darryl Bautista, Xavier's Michael Haw Sy, UST's Jerby Cruz and International School's Kevin Astorga, a 6-foot-4 holdover from last year's ill-fated squad.

The 6-foot-2 Taganas was named most valuable player in the recent Inter-Secondary Basketball Championship, also held at the Quezon Convention Center, won by San Beda. Menor stands 6-3, Cruz 6-5, Bautista 6-2 and Sy 5-8.

Likely to make the team, which will undergo a one-week team-building session in Zamboanga City, are 6-3 Jayson Castro of Philippine Christian University, 5-9 James Martinez of San Beda, 6-3 James Nocum of De Ocampo and 6-5 Mike Baldos, another holdover from Ateneo.

"Definitely, I can form a stronger team than last year," said Tam. "With the talent of my players and the support of Burlington and FedEx, I'm confident of topping the tournament."

Aside from Malaysia, expected to send teams are Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei and Myanmar.

"We're still awaiting word from other countries because we want the entire Southeast Asian region to be represented. The more the merrier, as they say," said Basketball Association of the Philippines president Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal.

Quezon Gov. Willie Enverga expressed his gratitude to the BAP for choosing his province as host of the Seaba tournament.

"We're glad that BAP has chosen our province to host this big event. We will do our best to ensure its success," said Enverga.

BAP executive vice president Christian Tan said Lucena City's world-class facility and rustic ambience convinced the BAP that it is the perfect venue for the Seaba tournament.

CASUALTIES RISING

Injuries put the cuffs on Coke Tigers

By June Navarro

THE NUMBER of injured players in the Philippine Basketball Association has risen to an alarming level, with the Coca-Cola Tigers hardest hit with four.

At least five other teams have lost their key men to the orthopedic list.

Despite victories in its first two games, Reinforced Conference champion Coca-Cola is expected to be slowed down soon by the sidelining of Rudy Hatfield, swingman Jeffrey Cariaso, Edward Juinio and Jec Chia.

Hatfield, Finals MVP of the Reinforced, suffers from stress fracture on his left foot and will be out for six to eight weeks, while the 6-foot-5 Juinio is recuperating after an arthroscopic surgery on his knees.

The Coke coaching staff said Juinio will be out for two months at the most.

Cariaso pulled his hamstring in practice but coach Chot Reyes expects the 1994 Rookie of the Year to be back in the Tigers' rotation when they meet the Barangay Ginebra Kings on Sunday.

Reynel Hugnatan and Gilbert Lao have taken over Hatfield and Juinio's chores. In Cariaso's place is rookie Gary David, who has successfully filled the void in the backcourt.

"Hopefully, he (Cariaso) can play in our next game but we are not forcing the issue," said Reyes. "We will just wait until Jeff fully recovers. As for David, he's been showing tremendous effort, he's the real steal of the draft."

Purefoods is also limping after four games with rookie James Yap, Jun Limpot and Eddie Laure complaining of some injury or another.

Coach Ryan Gregorio said Yap is set to undergo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to determine the cause of the excruciating pain on the right shoulder of the former University of the East standout.

Limpot twisted his left ankle in the Hotdogs' losing game against the Alaska Aces last Sunday, while Laure is undergoing therapy to strengthen his legs. Gregorio said Laure could be back in two weeks.

Over at Shell, import Marek Ondera will most likely rest the right ankle he sprained in the game against Purefoods last Thursday in General Santos City in the next two games.

"He (Ondera) is still under observation. We'll try to bring in a temporary replacement while Ondera is recuperating from the injury," said Shell governor and team manager Bobby Kanapi.

Sta. Lucia Realty's Kenneth Duremdes sat the Realtors' last three games due to a strained knee while John Arigo of Alaska is still undergoing therapy on his left leg.

Besides these players, Alex Crisano and rookie Kim Valenzuela of Barangay Ginebra, Victor Pablo of Talk 'N Text, Harvey Carey and Nelson Asaytono of Red Bull Barako, Gerard Francisco and Chris Tan of SLR are also on the injured list.

Sources, however, said Tan is actually in the pink of health but was only declared injured to accommodate a player in the reserve roster.

In another development, negotiations to acquire ex-NBA player Anthony Bonner for the TJ Hotdogs have hit a snag, forcing Purefoods officials to explore other options to find another import in the caliber of Lenny Cooke.

Cooke, a high school phenom in the United States before Lebron James, tore his left achilles tendon, making him unavailable for the rest of the Fiesta Conference. Reggie Butler has replaced Cooke.

RING MAGAZINE
RING
MANNY PACQUIAO
WORLD
FEATHERWEIGHT
CHAMPION

RING CHAMPIONSHIP BELT
Nigel Collins (left), editor in chief of Ring Magazine, Manila Sports Council head Ali Atienza (center) and sports commentator Ronnie Nathanielz present world featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao's Ring Championship Belt during yesterday's press conference at Pantalan restaurant in Manila. The belt will be awarded to Pacquiao in Malacañang this week. ERIK ARAZAS

Elorde Awards to honor Gomes

HAROLD Gomes, the American who lost his world junior lightweight crown to Gabriel "Flash" Elorde in an epic showdown four decades ago, will be honored with the Flash Elorde Memorial Trophy during the Banquet of Champions on March 25 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati.

Gomes, now 70, reigned as world champ in 1959 after he defeated Paul Jorgansen for the vacant title in Providence, Rhode Island.

Gomes' reign ended in that stinging loss to Elorde, who went on to retain the title for seven straight years, from 1960-1967, and become the only unbeaten boxer in his division in the postwar era.

For his string of wins, Da Flash earned the accolade as the greatest Filipino boxer of all time along with pre-war hero Pancho Villa.

Elorde's feat eventually earned him a place in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993.

The Elorde memorial award, which the Elorde family instituted last year, is given to former rivals of the Filipino boxing legend. Its first recipient was Japanese Shigeji Kaneko, who defeated Elorde three times.

The Elorde family said it took them many months to find out where Gomes now lives. Johnny Elorde, son of the ring hero, said he found Gomes' address on the Internet.

Gomes also lost to Elorde in their rematch, five months after their Araneta Coliseum clash on March 16, 1960.

Roberto, Villaroman lead Southern Ladies Open field

CLOSE to 80 players from 17 teams vie for top honors in various divisions in the 41st Southern Ladies Open Golf Championships which unfolds tomorrow at the Bacolod Golf and Country Club at Hacienda Binitin in Murcia, Bacolod City.

National training pool members Lora Roberto and Carmelette Villaroman head the cast in the championship division of the three-day event that also lured the likes of Lucy Landicho and Lina de Guzman of Cangolf and Aileen Rose Yao and Karen Buenaventura of Manila Golf Club.

The event will be launched with the traditional Lam-am tournament today. It features a female player and a male amateur partner.

Wack Wack is fielding the biggest contingent with 25 in the event organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines, held in cooperation with the host club, and sponsored by DHL Worldwide Express, WWW Express, Gopez Corp., Sugarland Hotel, Directories Philippines Corp., Hans Bruhmann Jeweller, Casino Filipino Hotel, Mitsubishi Motors, Vice Admiral Luisito Fernandez, Nestlé Waters Phils. Inc.

Dayrit heads key Asiad committee

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit was recently appointed to chair the OCA Evaluation Committee which is tasked to review the capability and readiness of prospective host cities bidding for future Asian Games.

Aside from the POC, Dayrit is currently the president of the Southeast Asian Games Federation and the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee. He is also the vice president of the Olympic Council of Asia, the first Filipino ever to be elected to this position in the continental governing body for sports.

Dayrit's experience in games and events management has been noted and recognized by the OCA. He was involved in the OCA working committee for finance and marketing for the Asian Games in Busan, Korea, and headed the OCA inspection team which evaluated the plans and capabilities of Qatar for the 2006 Asian Games.

Del Monte does a Pearl Harbor

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT WAS like the Pearl Harbor attack all over again.

When nobody was looking, Del Monte sneaked in from nowhere and snatched the 57th PAL Interclub Golf Championship last weekend at Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro City.

It was so sudden even the German blitzkrieg would have had no answer to that.

Indeed, surprise is the best attack.

Nobody had given Del Monte a serious thought.

But it has happened. The team not given an iota of a chance to win it had won.

Fact is dead. Fiction is alive.

Who needs Harry Potter?

All along, everybody thought it was another walk in the park for Canlubang.

All along, Canlubang would be the champ for a record fifth straight year and for the 13th time since this national golf team championship was born in 1948.

All along, everybody thought the only interesting thing worth watching was the battle for second place.

But golf being the most unpredictable of all sports, all seers had been proved wrong. The gods of golf are the hardest to please, if not sway. .

Del Monte of Cawayanon, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, was finally the king of the hill and all of Mindanao—Kaamulan and all—toasted its first ever PAL Interclub champion in 56 years.

Still and all, Yoyong Velez, the lawyer-playing captain of Del Monte, was the least surprised.

"This victory is the result of a four-year program for Del Monte," said Yoyong, whose teammates include Paul and Ben Miñoza, Lino Retuerto, Buboy Jaraula, Tristan Tabañas, Jett Plete, Louie Dacudao, Arsenio Mondilla and Joel Opaco. "I'm glad our efforts paid off."

The victory was not lacking in drama, though.

Ahead by 7 points going into the last round, Del Monte lost the lead and trailed Southwoods by 2 points after the front nine on Artemio Murakami's heroics.

Murakami would proceed to score a brilliant 2-under-par 70 for 38 points. Under ordinary situations, that would have been good enough to give Southwoods its second PAL Interclub crown in five years.

Not quite.

Because you can't play defense in golf, Murakami could only watch helplessly as his flight mate and rival from Del Monte, Louie Dacudao, gunned down three birdies on his last five holes that keyed Del Monte's historic win in the fabled event.

Those three birdies gave Dacudao 9 points on three holes, which proved too strong a buffer for Del Monte as that output negated Murakami's imposing lead down the stretch.

The killer was Dacudao's pitch-in, downhill birdie on the last hole, which secured another 2-point margin for a total of 4 points scored over Murakami in their last five holes of play. That 4-point lead over five holes became Del Monte's final winning margin after Paul Miñoza took 3 points on Southwoods' Jun Jun Plana in the same stretch in their own duel after the penultimate flight of Dacudao-Murakami.

With Del Monte finishing 133 against Southwoods' final-day 136 at Pueblo de Oro, the windup was one of the closest ever as Del Monte posted a mere 4-point victory, 571-567, over a team poised merely at the start to—as Southwoods playing team captain Jeric Hechanova had described it—"contend for second place."

As things turned out, Del Monte burned everybody with an opening-day 156 at its home course—a record—as Jaraula shot a league mark of 43 points. For all intents and purposes, that output shut all doors on the title pretenders, including the much-ballyhooed and defending champion Canlubang which finished third—its lowest in memory.

"We knew we had the talent," said Velez, 42, the legal counsel of the Lorenzo-owned Del Monte estate. "It was just a question of our determination and persistence."

Velez can say that again as, indeed, the Del Monte squad has always been oozing with talent all these years. For, if only for the record, record-breaker Buboy Jaraula, together with Dr. Tabañas (the dentist grandson of the legendary, six-time RP Open champion Celestino Tugot), Opaco, Plete and Paul Miñoza are not first-time champions. Twice in 2001 and 2002, they powered DHL-Mizuno to the Am championship of the Fil-Am in Baguio City. Just last December, most of them were part of the core of the Mizuno-DHL team that ended Southwoods' four-year reign as Fil champion in the world-renowned Fil-Am.

So what else is new?

***

FASTBREAK. Today at 6 p.m. will mark the historic launch of The Metropolitan Athletic Club (MAC) at One McKinley Place Lobby, Bonifacio Global City in Makati City. The MAC, to be built beside the soon-to-be-erected The Metropolitan Tower (Metro Club) near the state-of-the-art Power Plant's Rockwell in Makati, will house badminton, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, not to mention an 8-lane tenpin bowling alley, a gym and a sauna. Club shares will be sold during the investors' night for The Metropolitan, another babe of Philtownship Inc. which will soon farm out affordable premium condominium units. I wish I had the money. I like watching movies at Rockwell. Nice seats. Good "sensurround." And cozy spots there to kill time, like Dish and the two Via Mares (native food and the oyster bar).

Gabi defends title, targets WBC champ

WORLD Boxing Council International flyweight champ Diosdado "Prince" Gabi of Kidapawan City is aiming for a crack at regular WBC titlist Pongsaklek Wongjongkam of Thailand when he makes the first defense of his title on April 17 at the University of Baguio gym in Baguio City.

The southpaw Gabi, 24-2-1 with 19 KO's, will defend his title for the first time against Thailand's Duangpetch Nakornthong-Parkvill after dethroning Randy Mangubat last Nov. 9 in Kidapawan City.

The Thai challenger is staking his unblemished slate (24 wins, 1 draw) against the Filipino, who holds the International title among WBC contenders rated No. 13 and below.

But while he is not taking his tough challenger for granted, Gabi (WBC No. 14/IBF No. 12) is actually seeking a fight against Wongjongkam, who seized the WBC crown from Filipino Malcolm Tuñacao via a first round knockout in 2001.

Soc Piñol, Gabi's manager and promoter, said his ward is prepared to travel to Thailand to fight Wongjongkam (50-2, with 27 KO's).

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Dayrit to swear in new PSA officers

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit will induct the new set of officers of the Philippine Sportswriters Association at 8 p.m. on Friday at the Manila Pavilion. To be sworn in are Jimmy Cantor (Malaya), president; Ding Marcelo (Manila Bulletin), first vice president; Edwin Gabutina (Today), second vice president; Aldrin Cardona (Daily Tribune), secretary; Joe S. Antonio (People's Journal), treasurer; Teddyvic Melendres (Philippine Daily Inquirer), auditor, and the members of the board of directors. Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala, Philippine Basketball League commissioner Chino Trinidad and Manila Sports Council head Ali Atienza head the list of guest invited to the affair. The board is made up of Lito Tacujan (Star), chair; Roberto Cuevas (Standard), Recah Trinidad (Inquirer), Ernie Gonzales (Inquirer), Manolo Iñigo (Inquirer), Al Mendoza (Inquirer), Jimbo Gulle (Manila Times), Rey Bancod (Tempo), Dennis Iñigo (Balita), Dina Marie Villena (Pilipino Star), Ana Federigan (Taliba), Ed Andaya (People's Tonight), Tito Deblois (Abante), Ronnie Nathanielsz (Standard), Joaquin Henson (Star), Camilo Mendez (Balita) and Iking Gonzales. Named adviser is Gus Villanueva.

Ramos, Cunanan top Patakbong Pinoy

JOMAR Ramos and Jenna Cunanan proved their mettle against 400 other bets to claim the boys' and girls' division crowns, respectively, in the Pasig leg of the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy held last Sunday. Ramos bested Franine Yurangco (second) and Christopher Molines (third) while Cunanan held off Aefril Anne Aguinaldo (second) and Dessa Reverente (third) in the five-kilometer race organized by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions. Pasig City councilor Gregorio "Ory" Rupisan Jr. awarded the medals and cash prizes, courtesy of Beam Toothpaste and Zesto Juice Drinks, in the race that featured students from Rizal High School.

Barecom sets assembly April 2-4

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines Referees Commission (Barecom) will hold its third National Referees Commission assembly on April 2-4 at the Rizal Coliseum in Manila. For inquiries, call international referee and project director Anthony A. Sulit at 0917-5242522 or (02) 524-3977 and look for Neth Mendoza.

Inter-commercial chess slated

A CASH pot of P70,000, including the champion's purse of P20,000, is at stake in the MCC Inter-Commercial chess team tournament slated April 3-4 at the Starmall in Mandaluyong City. The event is sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and open to teams from government and private firms, schools and universities. Four regular players and one alternate compose each team which can field one master who will play on Board 1 only. The average rating of the top four rated members must not exceed 2000. The event will use the seven-round Swiss System and time control of 60 minutes per player. Team cash prizes are broken down to five places. Top board performers will also receive cash prizes. Registration will be accepted starting March 15 at the MCC office at the 4/F J&F Divino Bldg., Aurora Boulevard (next to St. Joseph Church), Quezon City. For inquiries, call MCC at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Run for a healthy, loving heart

THE SAINTS Peter and Paul Parish Foundation in Makati City will hold a 5-kilometer fun run on March 14 to raise funds for the foundation's community projects. Dubbed "Makati's Power Fun Run 04 at Rockwell," the event—open to all for an entry fee of P100—kicks off at the Rockwell Center at 5:30 a.m. The winner in both the men's and women's divisions pockets P5,000 worth of gift certificates and products, with the second and third placers getting P3,000 and P2,000, respectively. Corporate donors include presenter Smart Communications and Rockwell Center, with New Balance, Dunkin Donuts, True Value and the MetroBank Foundation as major sponsors. Interested participants in the fun run, organized by the marketing services firm Courage Asia, may register at Ga'charich gift shop, G/F Margarita Bldg., JP Rizal Street, Makati City (899-0649) and at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish office at 5539 DM Rivera corner P. Burgos St. Makati (890-3842).

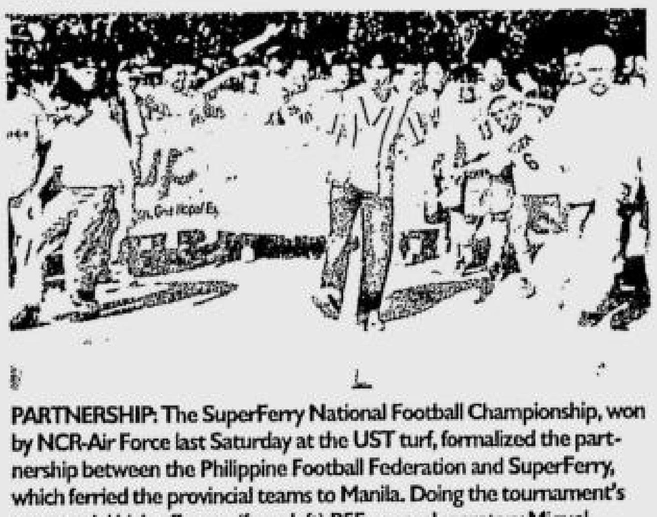
YMCA Makati holds sports lessons

SWIMMING, basketball, taekwondo lessons and other summer activities will be held starting March 22 at YMCA Makati (7 Sacred Heart Plaza Street, San Antonio Village). Swim courses, including tadpole, beginners and advance, will be held from March 22 and conducted in five batches, while basketball lessons for levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 will kick off on April 12 with four batches. Taekwondo sessions start on April 12, martial arts for children on April 12 and a self-defense course for women on April 17. For inquiries, call 899-6380, 899-6101, 899-6105, 899-6097 and 895-9525.

Slasher Cup ng Masa lures more entries

PROVINCIAL entries continue to pour in for the Slasher Cup ng Masa 6-Cock Derby, the big Roligon Mega Cockpit promotion slated on March 24, 26, 29 and 31. The derby offers a cash pot of P1.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800, said derby host and newspaper executive Rey Briones. The latest batch of registrants include Ramon Manawin, Sersel entry, Nelson Uy of NU Red Hawk I and II, Isabel entry, Rodrigo Villarubio of Pampanga, Capt. Jose Barcelona, Erwin Diamante, Nicolas Garganta, Bullet Guillano, Danny Liao, Bong Garcia, Honey Yu of Lucena, Toto Lacson and Joey Venancio of Rombion, Erning Bagasbas and Borja Farms of Camarines Sur, Lemy Esguerra, Rene Advincula and Joel Taytay of Rizal, Ining de Jesus and Boy Marzo of Laguna. For inquiries, call 833-2275, 833-1638, 852-9774 and 852-9812. Meanwhile, the Richie Rich 4-Cock Derby to be hosted by Richard Perez, Richard Tingson and Arnold Perez unfolds this Thursday with P400,000 at stake (entry fee of P11,000). Submission of weights is on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CHAMPS: Members of Ateneo's Paya-Mini basketball team hold their victory streamer after posting a 10-game sweep in the recent Philippine Athletic Youth Association meet. The team of fifth and sixth graders include Kevin Gamboa, Ice Reyes, Tonito de Ocampo, Raffy Carlos, Leo Mercado, Miggy Cruz, Jayvee Dumrique, Gio Rodriguez, Kevin Tuason, David Viehland, Enzo Librojo, Robin Martinez, Michael Shimamoto, Manjo Lamar and Monchet Ibarra. PJ Navarro is the team's head coach, with Xavier Garcia and Ronnel Dumandan as his assistants.



PARTNERSHIP: The SuperFerry National Football Championship, won by NCR-Air Force last Saturday at the UST turf, formalized the partnership between the Philippine Football Federation and SuperFerry, which ferried the provincial teams to Manila. Doing the tournament's ceremonial kick-off were (from left) PFF general secretary Miguel Villadolid, SuperFerry senior PR and corporate communications associate Judd Salas and PFF president Juan Miguel Romualdez.

Yao shines as Rockets tame Mavs

HOUSTON—Yao Ming scored 29 points, including five in the final 45 seconds, and the Houston Rockets snapped a six-game losing streak against the Dallas Mavericks with a 101-98 victory.

It was Yao's first win ever against the Mavericks. He has defeated every other NBA team.

The Mavericks lost their third game in a row but almost fought back against the Rockets, who had to overcome 30 turnovers and a season high 20 steals by an opponent. Dirk Nowitzki had nine steals, an individual season high against the Rockets.

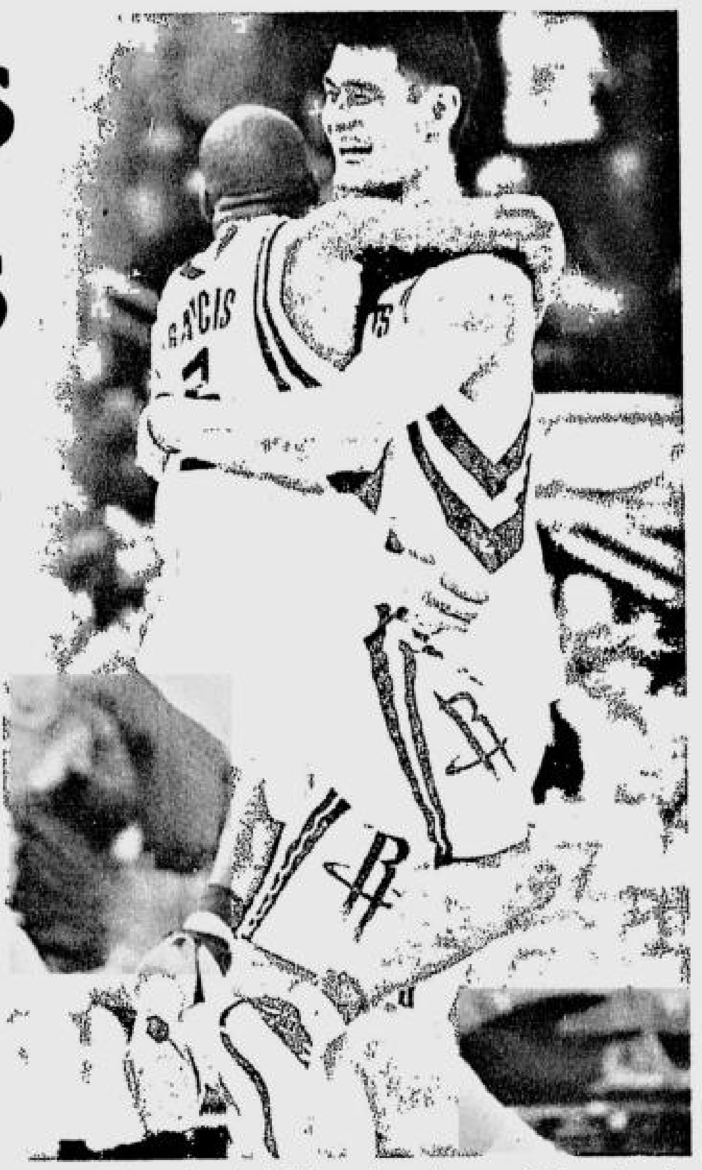
Steve Nash led Dallas with 22 points and nine assists. Nowitzki scored 18 points and Finley had 16.

In Toronto, Vince Carter had 26 points, including a buzzer-beater from just beyond halfcourt at the end of the third quarter, and the Toronto Raptors ended a seven-game home losing streak with a victory over the New Orleans Hornets.

Carter capped a 19-4 run in the third by making his 41-foot 3-pointer that hit off the backboard.

Toronto native Jamaal Magloire had a career-high 21 rebounds and 23 points for the Hornets, who have lost six of nine.

Complete results: Toronto 84, New Orleans 76; Houston 101, Dallas 98; New York 99, Washington 86; LA Lakers 94, New Jersey 88; Sacramento 107, Orlando 90; Memphis 95, Golden State 85; Boston 80, Minnesota 77; Detroit 86, Seattle 65; LA Clippers 91, Portland 71; Indiana 103, Denver 94. *AP*



ROCKETS' Steve Francis (left) jumps into the arms of Ming, whose 3-point play lifted the Rockets past the Mavs. REUTERS

O'MEARA poses with his trophy. REUTERS

DUBAI CLASSIC

O'Meara wins again at 47

DUBAI—Only in golf could it happen.

Forty-seven-years-old, winless in six years and riddled with back pains, but back in the winner's circle again.

Mark O'Meara struck a blow for forty-somethings in the world of sport with his astonishing victory over Tiger Woods, Ernie Els and other luminaries in the Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday.

Widely regarded as the "Mr. Nice" of golf, O'Meara's greatest moments came back in 1998 when, at the age of 41, he won both the Masters and the British Open at Royal Birkdale and was named Golfer of the Year.

But since then he has endured six barren years and had become better-known as the close friend, fishing partner and confidant of Tiger Woods.

The Seniors Tour is beckoning, but O'Meara says he never gave up hope of winning again at the top level.

The new equipment, clubfaces and balls, that allow most players to hit it around 300 yards off the tee, helped and O'Meara in the last few weeks has adopted a curious new putting technique that sees him place his right hand horizontally across the clubface. *AFP*

Davies rules Australian Open by 6 shots

SYDNEY—Laura Davies broke through for her first women's Australian Open by six strokes at Concord here on Monday.

The 40-year-old English star had a closing round of two-under 70 to finish five-under 283 to beat Australia's Rachel Teske (73-71-71-74) with England's Trish Johnson (72-72-77-70) third at three over 291.

Davies was the dominant figure in the rain-hit tournament after Sunday's rain postponement. She came out early Monday to play her final six holes.

With a three-shot lead, the winner of 66 events worldwide knew only a Teske birdie glut would deny her the 73,500 dollar (56,000 USD) first prize check.

"It was a long slog having to go back out but I always thought I was playing well enough, as long as Rachel didn't go crazy, that I could hang on in there," said Davies.

Davies left the course for the airport on Monday for one of the last remaining blanks in her resumé—Rancho Mirage, California.

The Nabisco major, once known as the Dinah Shore, is event three on the LPGA tour and the one major Davies is yet to win—although she is also yet to earn a place in the LPGA World Hall of Fame.

"I need a couple more wins in America to get into the hall of fame—I'd love to win the Dinah Shore to get the grand slam of majors," said Davies.

Teske's challenge withered on the back of two bogeys on the 13th and 15th, while Davies holed two birdies, and a bogey, to finish the only player below par on five under. *AFP*

Federer shows why he's No. 1

DUBAI—Roger Federer overcame an enterprising Feliciano Lopez to retain his Dubai Open title with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory on Sunday.

The 29th-ranked Spaniard displayed some impressive skills at the net and, combined with a fierce serve and strong backhand, he offered the Swiss world number one a real challenge. ,

"I really had to fight hard and I think he's definitely going to win his first title soon," said Federer.

"He played unbelievable tennis, I thought. I played good tennis except for that first game, and he came up with some unbelievable shots, unbelievable power, great serving and he totally deserved that first set.

"This means very much to me, to come back from a set down in a final. I don't remember if I ever did this before. Except for that first game I thought I played a perfect match," added the 22-year-old Wimbledon champion.

Federer started poorly, dropping his serve in the opening game with a mis-hit forehand. *Reuters*

Spadea claims 1st title after 223 tries

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—American Vince Spadea claimed his first career title on his 223rd attempt by edging past Germany's Nicolas Kiefer, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3, in the Scottsdale Classic final on Sunday.

The 29th-ranked Spadea came into the match with the ignominious distinction of being the highest-ranked player never to have won a title.

Having turned professional in 1993, fourth seed Spadea finally managed to get his breakthrough in a bad-tempered match against Kiefer.

"I'm quite excited," said Spadea. *Reuters*

Attention HIGH SCHOOL Students!!!

Experience College Life while in High School!

Are you ready to face the challenges of college?
Get a glimpse of what it is & prepare yourself before it hits you!

Join the OXFORD UNIVERSITY - England
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - Berkeley
(Pre-College Programs)

A program designed to allow highschool students create their own summer experiences, make independent decisions, learn how to balance academic responsibilities & social commitments and grow in self-confidence & maturity. Students are taught how to prepare for and beat the SAT (by the Princeton review) and complete a college admissions portfolio. At the end of the program, students will be given a transcript.

- College Credit earn advance college credit courses & engage in enrichment activities. For students completing grades 9-12 (except for UC Berkeley & Oxford University, grades 10-12)
  - Oxford University - England
    - College Credit Course: June 28 - July 25, 2004
    - Paris Extension: July 26 July 29, 2004
  - University of California - Berkeley Campus
    - College Credit Session: July 3 August 13, 2004
    - Enrichment Session: July 3 August 7, 2004
  - University of Massachusettes Amherst
    - Session 1: June 27 July 30, 2004
    - Session 2: August 2 - August 21, 2004
  - Emory University - Atlanta (June 27 - July 24, 2004)
- College Admissions – an 11-day program of methodical & complete approach to building a college admissions portfolio held at Amherst College and Pepperdine University for students completing grades 10 & 11
- Pathways – an academic enrichment program held at the University of Massachusettes Amherst for students completing grades 7-9
- Language & Culture Immersion – a residential language program for students completing grades 10-12 (except for Nice, grades 9-12)
  - Beijing, China
  - Barcelona, Spain
    - Cadiz, España
    - España Tarifa
    - Nerja, España
  - Nice, France
  - Paris, France
  - Royan, France
  - Florence, Italy

FREE Orientation Seminar
MARCH 13, 2004 (Saturday) 9am – 12nn
Ballroom, New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

ASA Academic Study Program Coordinator

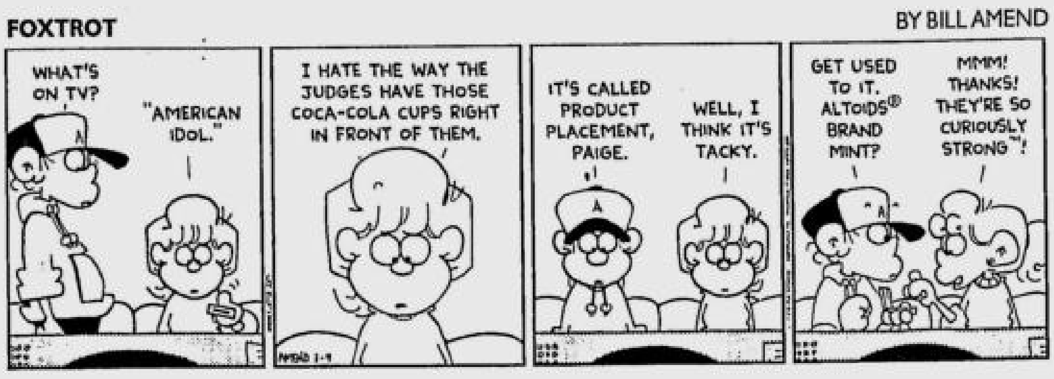
In coorperation with

Official International Registration Center (IRC)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

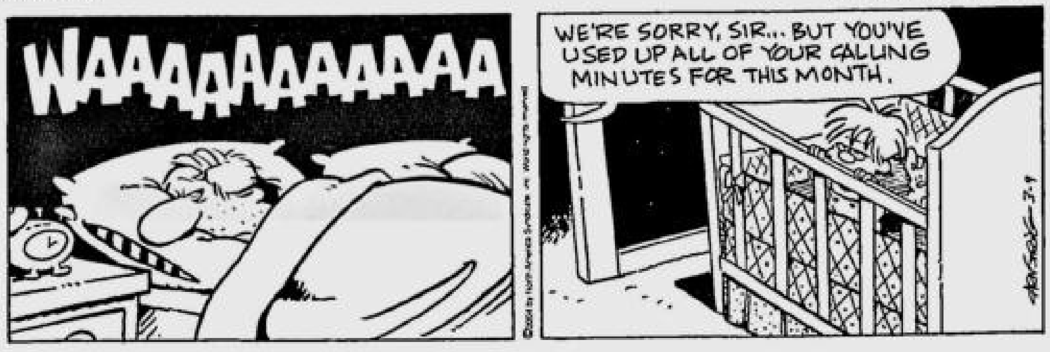
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S ON TV?
"AMERICAN IDOL."
I HATE THE WAY THE JUDGES HAVE THOSE COCA-COLA CUPS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.
IT'S CALLED PRODUCT PLACEMENT, PAIGE.
WELL, I THINK IT'S TACKY.
GET USED TO IT. ALTOIDS® BRAND MINT?
MMM! THANKS! THEY'RE SO CURIOUSLY STRONG™!

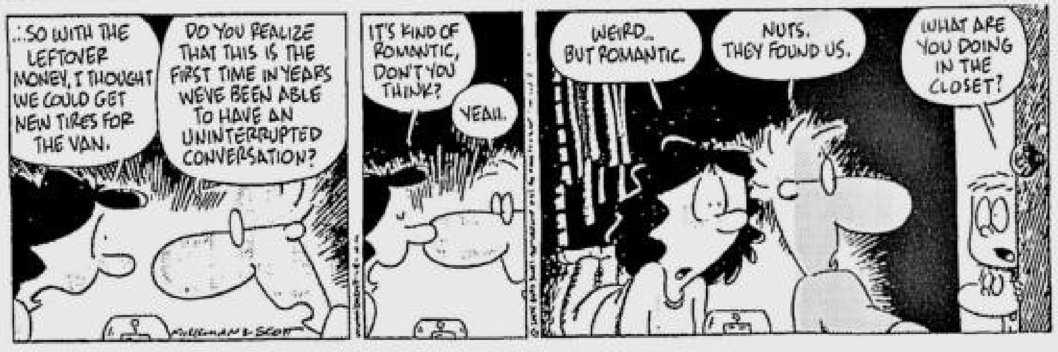
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WAAAAAAAAAAA
WE'RE SORRY, SIR... BUT YOU'VE USED UP ALL OF YOUR CALLING MINUTES FOR THIS MONTH.

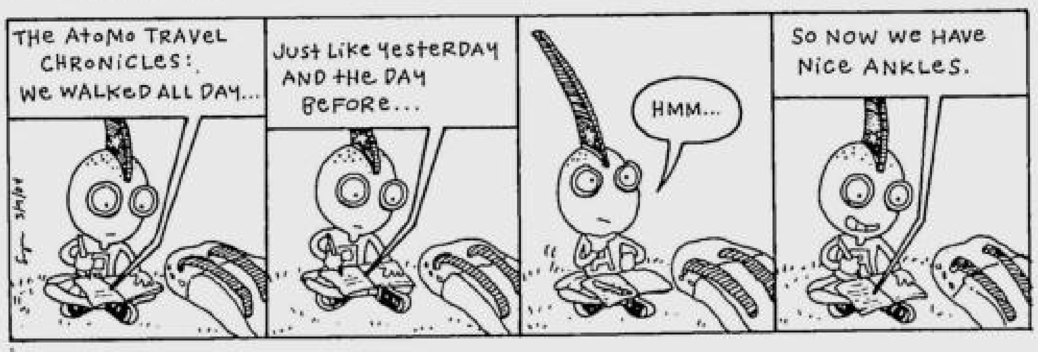
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


...SO WITH THE LEFTOVER MONEY, I THOUGHT WE COULD GET NEW TIRES FOR THE VAN.
DO YOU REALIZE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE AN UNINTERRUPTED CONVERSATION?
IT'S KIND OF ROMANTIC, DON'T YOU THINK?
YEAH.
WEIRD... BUT ROMANTIC.
NUTS. THEY FOUND US.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE CLOSET?

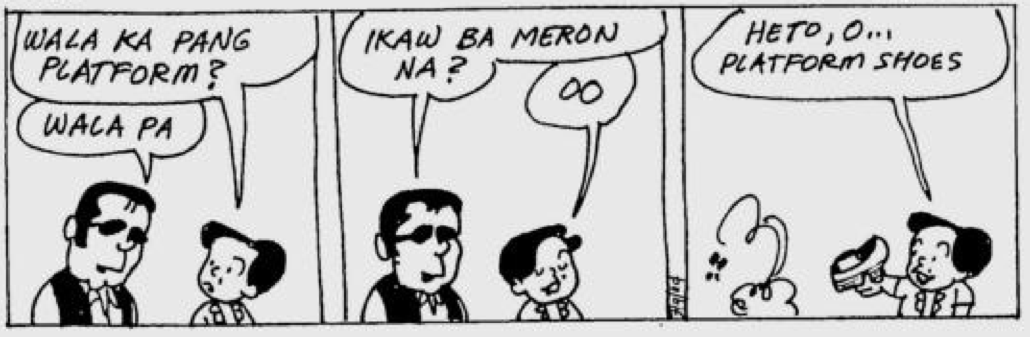
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THE ATOMO TRAVEL CHRONICLES: WE WALKED ALL DAY...
JUST LIKE YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE...
HMM...
SO NOW WE HAVE NICE ANKLES.

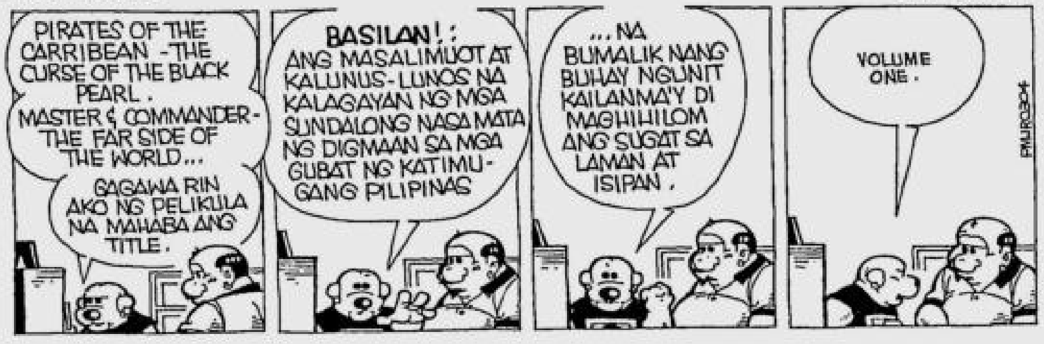
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA KA PANG PLATFORM?
WALA PA
IKAW BA MERON NA?
OO
HETO, O... PLATFORM SHOES

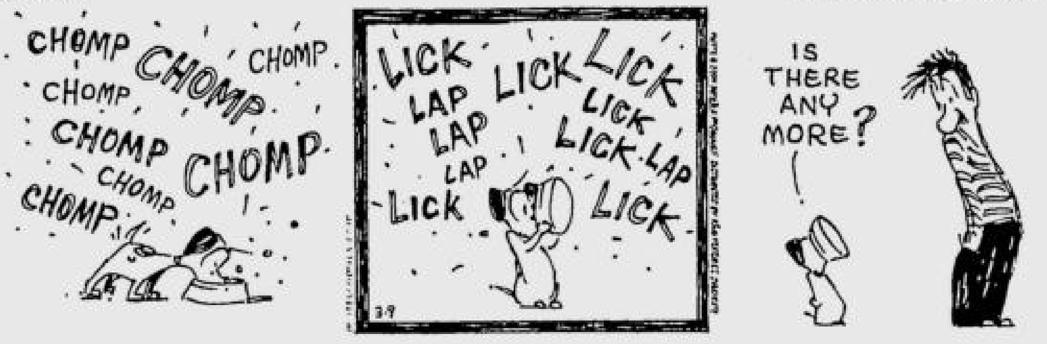
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN -THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL. MASTER & COMMANDER- THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD...
GAGAWA RIN AKO NG PELIKULA NA MAHABA ANG TITLE.
BASILAN!: ANG MASALIMUOT AT KALUNUS-LUNOS NA KALAGAYAN NG MGA SUNDALONG NASA MATA NG DIGMAAN SA MGA GUBAT NG KATIMUGANG PILIPINAS
...NA BUMALIK NANG BUHAY NGUNIT KAILANMA'Y DI MAGHIHILOM ANG SUGAT SA LAMAN AT ISIPAN.
VOLUME ONE.

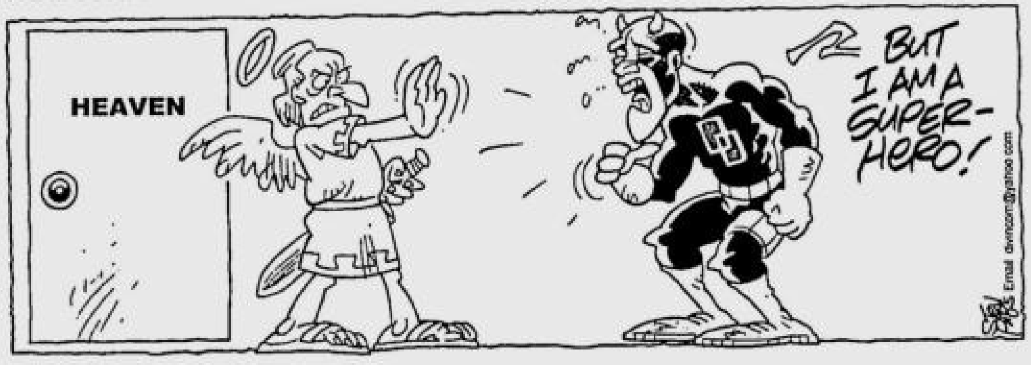
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
LICK LAP LICK LICK LAP LICK LAP LICK LAP LICK LICK
IS THERE ANY MORE?

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HEAVEN
BUT I AM A SUPER-HERO!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: At heart, you are a visionary. You dream up grand concepts related to the world around you. You are curious about almost everything. You are psychic (sometimes prophetic), and you seem to magnetize people and situations to you if you want them. This year, major cycles in your life will finish in order to make room for new ones to begin.
Birthdate of: Mickey Spillane, writer; Linda Fiorentino, actress; Juliette Binoche, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to get some extra rest or a moment of privacy today. You can't be all things to all people. You need time to replenish your energy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to schmooze with friends and enjoy casual conversations with your daily contacts and relatives. Let pleasure be your goal today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Conversations with bosses, parents and authority figures are significant now. Listen carefully, because you might learn something important.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a bit of a silly, goofy day. You want to do something different! You certainly don't want to get stuck in anything that is boring and routine. Go easy on yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your passion is running high now. You might develop a crush on your boss. At the very least, others see you as more flamboyant and dashing. ("Dash away, dash away, dash away all!")

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't agree to anything important today. Don't make commitments. However, listen to partners and close friends, because you might learn something about how you relate to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Throw away 10 things today that you don't need (dead batteries, pens that don't work, old magazines). Go to your junk drawer and get rid of stuff!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a wonderful, flirtatious day! You feel saucy and playful. It's all right to wink or give an extra-big smile to someone. Great day for creative efforts.

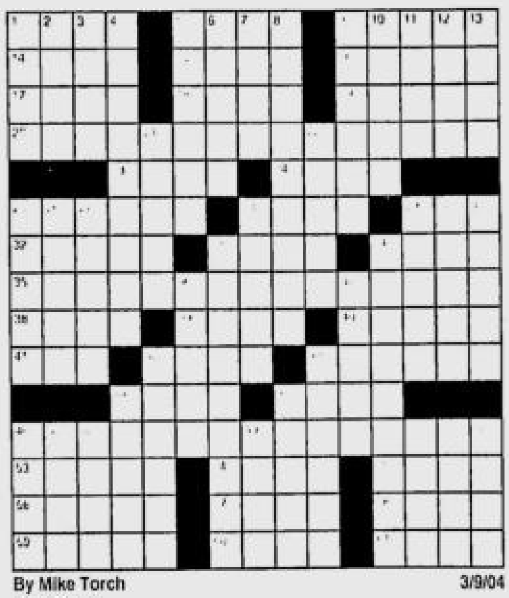
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Work hard at cleaning up and getting better organized at home. Discussions with children and young people might be part of this process.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with siblings are enjoyable and lighthearted today; however, do not agree to anything important. Do not shop today (except for food).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have a strong focus on money now: how you spend it and how you earn it. Today, however, is a poor day to make major expenditures or important decisions. Just relax and enjoy your day.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day for creative activities—drawing, painting, writing, dance, whatever. You feel unusually uninhibited and free to explore beyond conventional boundaries.

DAILY CROSSWORD



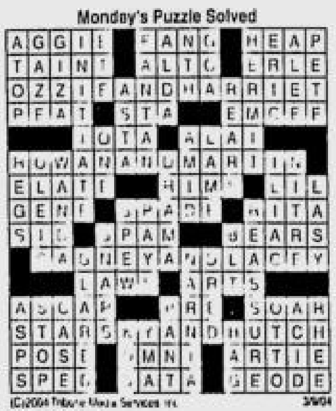
By Mike Torch
Dublin, OH

3/9/04

ACROSS
1 Strip of a lattice
5 Wide-ranging
9 Woman in the kitchen?
14 Black-and-white treat
15 Not in operation
16 Gothic arch
17 Con job
18 Arabian sultanate
19 One who's done for
20 Two-person event
23 Related (to)
24 Woeful lament
25 Florida fielder
28 In a bad way
29 R.E. Lee's nation
32 Nickel add-on?
33 Tree trunk
34 Amorphous mass
35 Risking one's neck
38 Egg on
39 Make an itinerary
40 Sticky and viscid
41 Writer Deighton
42 Good buddies
43 Academy frosh
44 Exalted poet
45 ___-a-terre
46 Well-defended
53 Handle with skill
54 Type of lens
55 Creative inspiration
56 Pierre's school
57 Miss Kett of the comics
58 Like a gentleman's agreement
59 Used a Singer
60 Any minute now
61 "Cheers" barfly

DOWN
1 Missing
2 Rival leader?
3 Material flaw
4 Macaulay Culkin movie
5 Stringed instrument
6 Mad Ave pros
7 Metal waste
8 Hat size
9 One of a hot, sultry period
10 Stravinsky and Sikorsky
11 Santa Maria's sister ship
12 With in Arles
13 Present!
21 Barely making do
22 Comic DeGeneres
25 Snowboarder's bump
26 Be crazy about
27 Period in power
28 Tiny bits
29 Use a ladder
30 Amiens river
31 Van Buren and Dalton
33 Brings down the house?
34 DePaul student
36 Pictures of illusion
37 Shoelace end
42 Foam-filled
43 Simple Simon's merchant
44 Charming miss
45 Snapshot
46 Leaves slack-jawed
47 Pilaf base
48 Cat call
49 Oz pooch
50 Continental cash
51 Russian ruler
52 Ship's tiller

Monday's Puzzle Solved

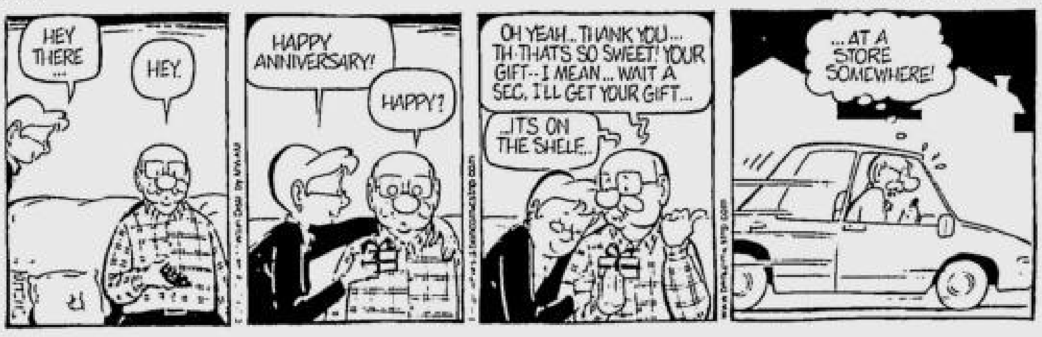


3/8/04

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services Inc.
All rights reserved

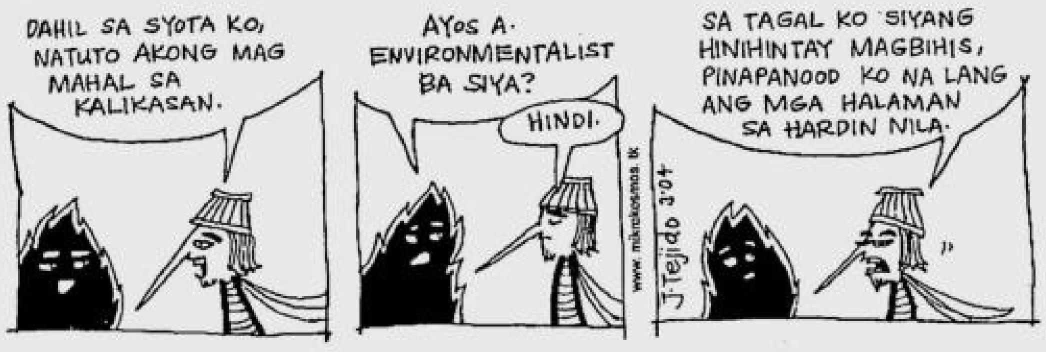
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY THERE ...
HEY.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
HAPPY?
OH YEAH... THANK YOU... TH-THAT'S SO SWEET! YOUR GIFT-- I MEAN... WAIT A SEC. I'LL GET YOUR GIFT...
...IT'S ON THE SHELF...
...AT A STORE SOMEWHERE!

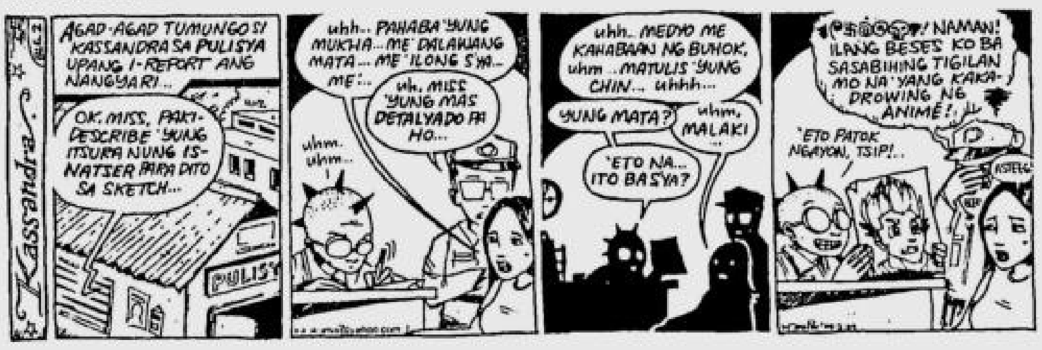
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAHIL SA SYOTA KO, NATUTO AKONG MAG MAHAL SA KALIKASAN.
AYOS A. ENVIRONMENTALIST BA SIYA?
HINDI.
SA TAGAL KO SIYANG HINIHINTAY MAGBIHIS, PINAPANOOD KO NA LANG ANG MGA HALAMAN SA HARDIN NILA.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 3'04

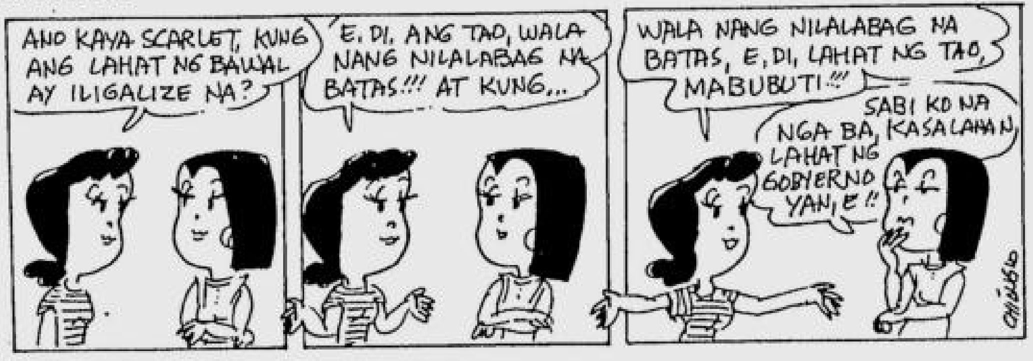
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Kassandra
AGAD-AGAD TUMUNGO SI KASSANDRA SA PULISYA UPANG I-REPORT ANG NANGYARI...
OK. MISS, PAKI-DESCRIBE 'YUNG ITSURA NUNG IS-NATSER PARA DITO SA SKETCH...
PULISYA
uhh.. PAHABA 'YUNG MUKHA... ME DALAWANG MATA... ME ILONG S'YA... ME...
uh. MISS 'YUNG MAS DETALYADO PA HO...
uhm. uhm...
uhh.. MEDYO ME KAHABAAN NG BUHOK, uhm ..MATULIS 'YUNG CHIN... uhhh...
'YUNG MATA?
uhm, MALAKI
'ETO NA... ITO BA S'YA?
@#$%! NAMAN! ILANG BESES KO BA SASABIHING TIGILAN MO NA 'YANG KAKA-DROWING NG ANIMÉ!
'ETO PATOK NGAYON, TSIP!..

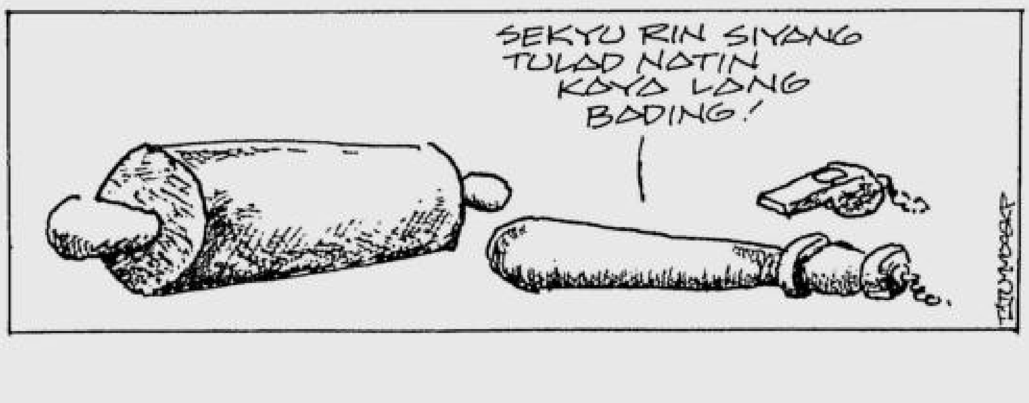
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO KAYA SCARLET, KUNG ANG LAHAT NG BAWAL AY ILIGALIZE NA?
E, DI, ANG TAO, WALA NANG NILALABAG NA BATAS!!! AT KUNG...
WALA NANG NILALABAG NA BATAS, E, DI, LAHAT NG TAO, MABUBUTI!!!
SABI KO NA NGA BA, KASALANAN LAHAT NG GOBYERNO YAN, E!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SEKYU RIN SIYANG TULAD NATIN KAYA LANG BADING!

Hot Babes . . .

From page A22

he exclaims candidly. Not that he needs the money.

I teased him, "I bet the American girls are all swarming around you! How do you handle girls who are too forward?"

TJ's Day!

TJ Manotoc was speechless when I interviewed his girlfriend **Rio** via phone patch in our show. That was the highlight of his birthday celebration. Rio assured TJ that she would always be around for him. It made TJ misty-eyed! He would rather shield Rio from the limelight so as much as possible, TJ does not want his "babe" to be exposed on cam. It's best for any celebrity to have a partner who comes from a "different world" to keep them grounded and to give them a reality check every now and then. It's a welcome change to be treated as a person and not as a personality.

Some of TJ's Ateneo buddies also greeted him. They revealed that during their college days they called TJ "Jurassic" because the speed of his brain was like a dinosaur's during oral recitation.

But with all of TJ's accomplishments, his buds must be eating their words now. If there's anything "Jurassic" about him these days, it's that his name as a sought-after host has become as huge as a dinosaur!

For feedback e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

Taiwanese superstar **Vaness Wu** is coming to Manila again. The member of the boy band F4, or Flower 4, will have a series of shows starting March 26 at the Expo Filipino in Clark Field, Pampanga, followed by a performance at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on March 27, and on March 29 at the Abellana Sports Complex in Cebu City. The series has "Crazy Right Now with the Stars" as working title. Vaness did a duet with Beyonce Knolwes in the Asian version of "Crazy Right Now."

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:03, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50 R-13
2 TORQUE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20 5:30, 10:40, 9:50 PG-13
3 GOTHIKA 11:15, 1:30, 3:50 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 R-13
4 DUPLEX 11:45, 1:45, 3:45 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 R-13

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 GOTHIKA 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 R13
CINEMA 2 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:30 R13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
MAR. 12,13,19,20 "MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL" 8:00PM
MAR 17 & 18 "WILLIE NEP 4 PRESIDENT" 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	CLOSED
Ali 2	CLOSED
Ali 3	ANNIE B.
Ali 4	GOTHIKA
Ali 5	TORQUE
Ali 6	DRAGON VS. NINJA
Ali 7	WATER DEMON

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

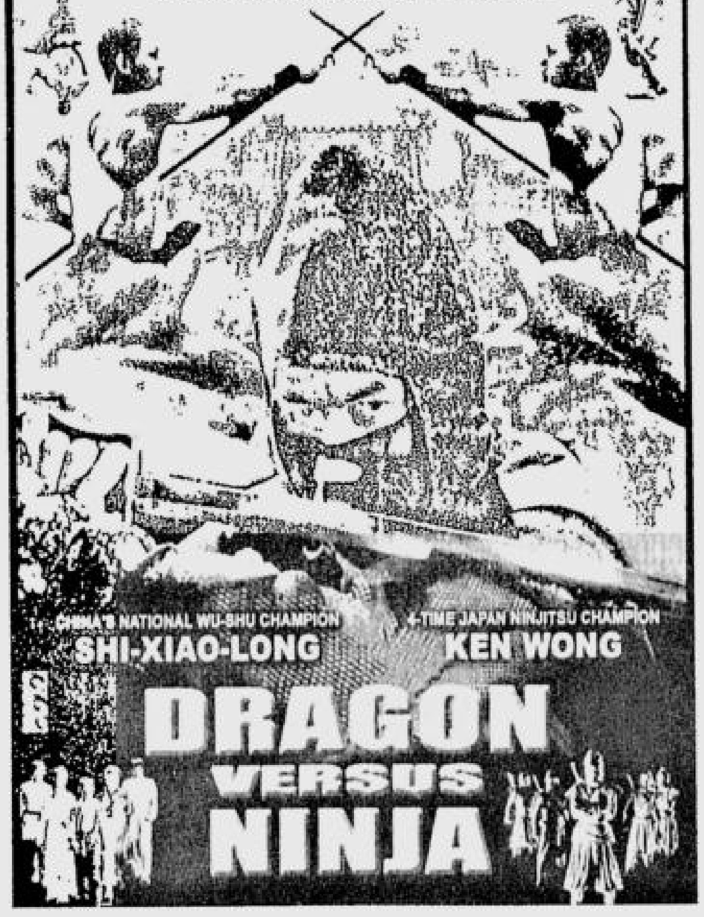
MAR 10	PBA. REDBULL VS. SHELL
MAR 12	SONG BIRD & SONG WRITER REPEAT
MAR 13	PBA: PUREFOODS VS. STA. LUCIA
MAR 14	PBA: GINEBRA VS. COKE
MAR 16	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 17	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
MAR 18	NCA 7-COCK DERBY

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAPUSOK / HAPDI
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LANGIT MO LIGAYA KO
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUYA
CINEMA-2	U-BELT
CINEMA-3	SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUPLEX
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WATER DEMON
CINEMA-6	GHOST HOUSE
CINEMA-7	TUKAAN
CINEMA-8	HAUNTED MANSION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-12	DRAGON VS NINJA
CINEMA-14	ANNIE B
CINEMA-15	MILAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	CHASING LIBERTY
CINEMA-1	ANNIE B
CINEMA-2	KUYA
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
HANEP SA ACTION... WALANG CAMERA TRICKS.
LABANAN NG MGA MATATAPANG... KAKASA KA BA?
From YUEN WO-PING the action director of THE MATRIX.
SHAOLIN KUNG FU ORIGINATED IN 3RD CENTURY CHINA. ★ NINJITSU ORIGINATED IN 9TH CENTURY JAPAN.
WHICH TECHNIQUE IS THE BEST?


CHINA'S NATIONAL WU-SHU CHAMPION SHI-XIAO-LONG
4-TIME JAPAN NINJITSU CHAMPION KEN WONG
DRAGON VERSUS NINJA

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED.
A SUPER-SIZED COMEDY!
STEVE MARTIN CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

OPENS TOMORROW!

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
CALL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555
Visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593
CINEMA 1 THX SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE 10:40, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45
2 GOTHIKA 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
3 LOST IN TRANSLATION 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
4 DUPLEX 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
5 TORQUE 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
6 DRAGON VS. NINJA 12:30, 2:35, 4:40
GAWI: THE NIGHTMARE 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
8 MILAN 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9 COLD MOUNTAIN 11:25, 2:30, 5:40, 9:00
ANNIE B. 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12
1 TORQUE 11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:40
2 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00
3 MILAN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
DRAGON VS. NINJA 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 ANNIE B. 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6 DUPLEX 10:20, 12:15, 2:10, 4:05, 6:00, 7:55, 9:50
GOTHIKA 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280
1 DUPLEX 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 GOTHIKA 10:45, 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:05
3 TORQUE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
4 DRAGON VS. NINJA 11:25, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15
COLD MOUNTAIN 10:30, 12:15, 3:00, 5:45, 9:00
6 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE 10:20, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
MILAN 10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 9:00
ANNIE B. 10:30, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31
1 TORQUE 11:25, 1:55, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35
2 DUPLEX 11:20, 1:10, 3:00, 4:50, 6:40, 8:30
3 ANNIE B. 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
4 COLD MOUNTAIN 11:55, 2:40, 5:25, 8:30
DRAGON VS. NINJA 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
6 GOTHIKA 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:15, 1:35, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35
GAWI: THE NIGHTMARE 11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8:10

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 TORQUE
2 DRAGON VS. NINJA
3 ANNIE B.
4 GOTHIKA

big Supercenter CAINTA 240-4661
1 TORQUE
2 MILAN
3 ANNIE B.
4 GOTHIKA

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907
1 MILAN
2 GOTHIKA
3 ANNIE B.
4 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
5 GHOST HOUSE

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 COLD MOUNTAIN
2 ANNIE B.
3 U-BELT
4 MILAN
5 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS 852-2125
1 U-BELT
2 GHOST HOUSE
3 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
4 MILAN
5 ANNIE B.

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 DUPLEX
2 MILAN
3 LOST IN TRANSLATION
4 ANNIE B.
5 GOTHIKA
6 RUNAWAY JURY

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 TORQUE
2 DRAGON VS. NINJA
3 ANNIE B.
4 GOTHIKA
DTS
5 MILAN
6 WATER DEMON

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 COLD MOUNTAIN
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 IN THE CUT
4 CHASING LIBERTY
5 DUPLEX
6 MILAN

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 COLD MOUNTAIN
4 WRONG TURN
5 U-BELT
6 MAGIC KITCHEN

See it at its BEST

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

ADVANCE SCREENING
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA Cinema 6
March 8 and 9, 2004 (Monday & Tuesday) 7:30 PM
This screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

The return …

From page A23

in's for Aya and Ana.

When word got around that the movie will be shown this March, Aya and company talked among themselves to plan a course of action. After consulting a lawyer, Aya found out that she could at least stop the showing of the movie by filing a temporary restraining order, the actress said.

Ana Capri, who is now being managed by Don-Don Monteverde, is also resorting to the same legal action, she added.

But Aya stressed that she was still open to negotiations.

"Why not? If only they would pay us and give us some creative control over the final product," Aya said.

"I'm scared at how I was portrayed in the movie. I promised my husband (Japanese businessman **Yoji Akayawa**) that I would not bare anymore. He agreed for me to make a comeback but he also game me limitations. I have to stick by our agreement. I don't want my family to be affected."

The younger Espiritu told INQUIRER Entertainment that he was not aware of the agreement his father had entered into with the stars' then manager, Jojo Veloso.

"If there's a problem, we can talk about it and fix it," he said.

Espiritu added that he had already been paid for directing and acting in the movie.

As Aya was holding her breath waiting for the outcome of talks with Camel Films, three movie offers had come her way.

She has lost almost all the weight she had gained while she was pregnant. Her skin, she said, is also fairer and smoother because of whitening treatments. Although she has to wear a girdle for six months to keep her new shape after the lipo, Aya is confident that she will regain her place in local showbiz.

"But this time, I will not bare. I will be known as an actress and not as a bold star," she vowed.

Hot …

From page A23

mits that she's not the marrying kind.

Oh, Borgy!

I HAD such a delightful time chatting with **Borgy Manotoc**. Just like his mom (**Imee Marcos**), he is so down-to-earth. I remember Imee telling me that it's Borgy who is her link to the "bagets crowd."

The hip mom admits: "He helps me keep a young attitude!"

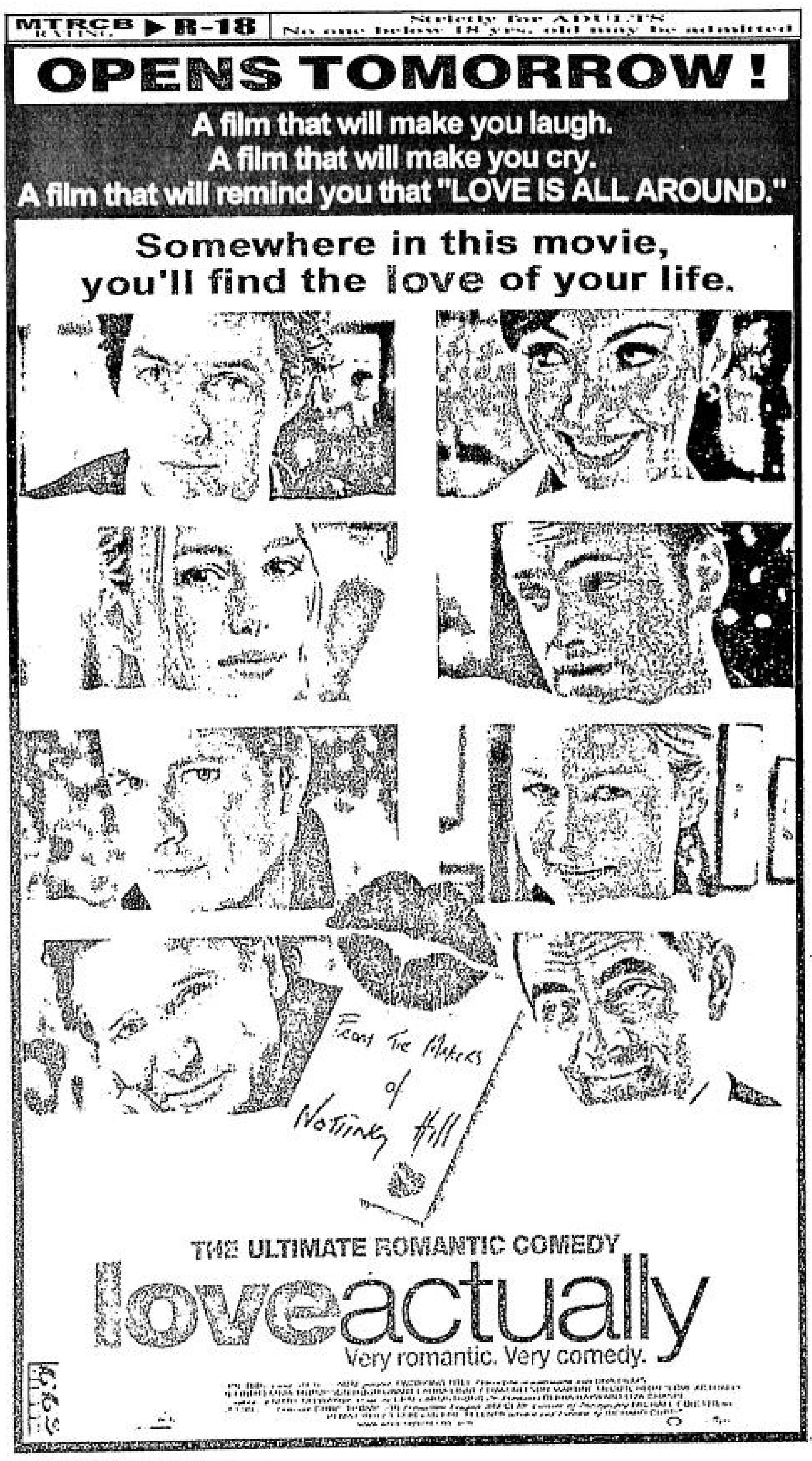
Some people who have the same background as he tend to be snooty and pretentious. But that's not Borgy's style.

He didn't mind waiting for hours cooped up in the dressing room until he was called to surprise his half-brother **TJ Manotoc** during the birthday episode we had for TJ in "Celebrity Dat Com."

Borgy is just here on vacation. He'll be flying back to New York where he's taking up Advertising. The Marcos scion also does some modelling in the Big Apple. What if he's offered a million bucks to be a full-time model here?

"Sure! I'll take it!"

HOT/ A21


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

OPENS TOMORROW!

A film that will make you laugh.
A film that will make you cry.
A film that will remind you that "LOVE IS ALL AROUND."

Somewhere in this movie, you'll find the love of your life.

From The Makers of Notting Hill

THE ULTIMATE ROMANTIC COMEDY

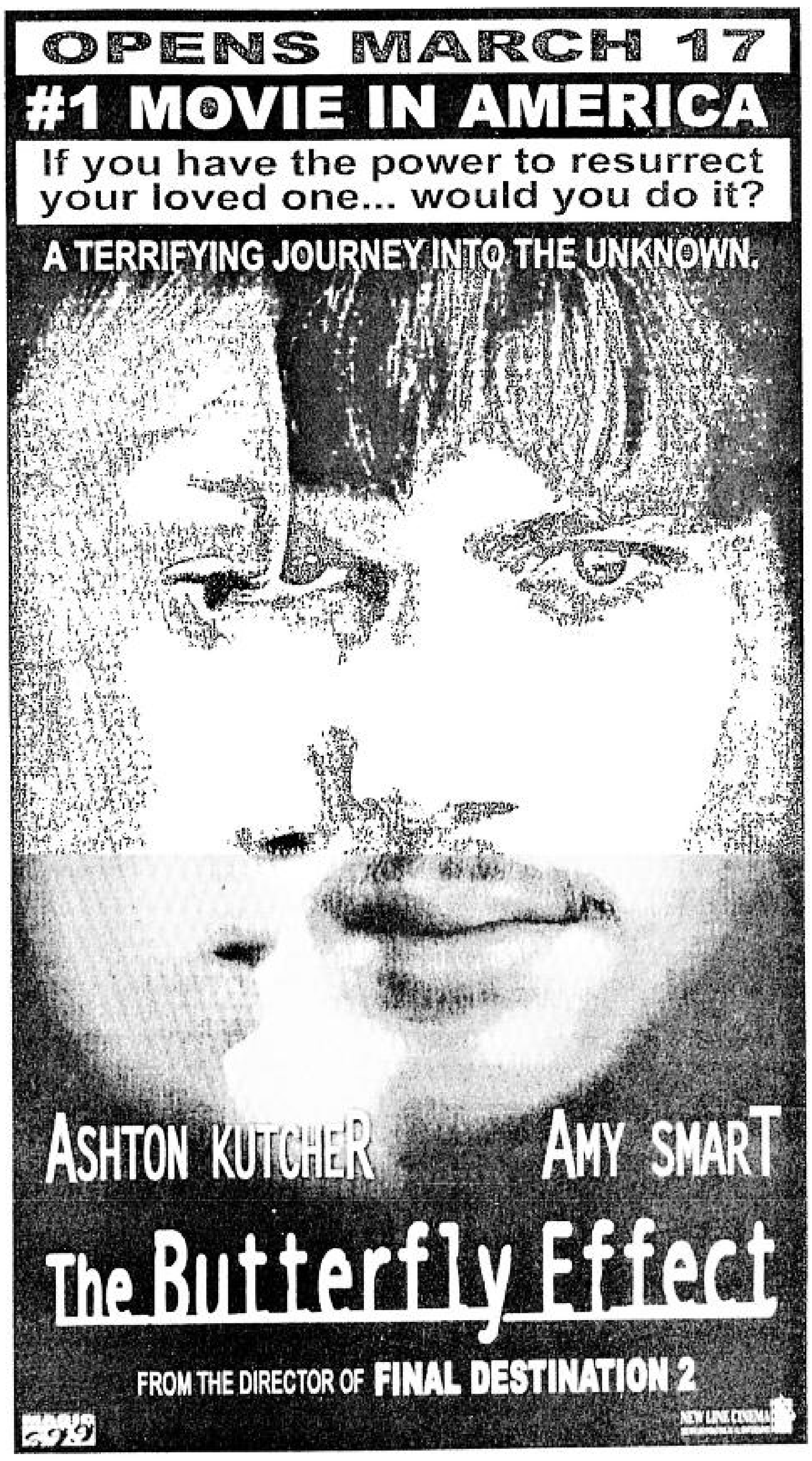
love actually

Very romantic. Very comedy.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LOST IN TRANSLATION PG13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	DUPLEX PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	TORQUE PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:20
GOTHIKA R13 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:30	MYSTIC RIVER R13 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE R13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.


OPENS MARCH 17

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA

If you have the power to resurrect your loved one... would you do it?

A TERRIFYING JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN.

ASHTON KUTCHER AMY SMART

The Butterfly Effect

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINAL DESTINATION 2

NEW LINE CINEMA

OPENS MARCH 17 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Tommy Lee Jones Cate Blanchett

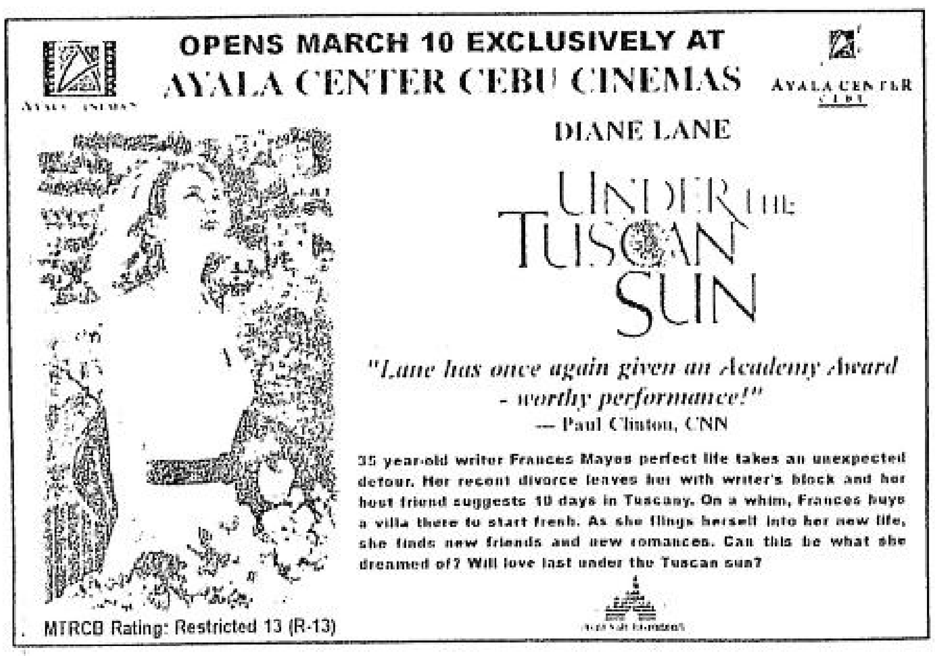
THE MISSING

How far would you go, how much would you sacrifice to get back what you have lost?

From Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the Oscar-winning director-producer team of A BEAUTIFUL MIND comes THE MISSING, an action-filled suspense thriller and a powerful drama of love, forgiveness and redemption.

"Powerful and provocative, The Missing is another masterful production from one of the industry's best directors and two of its best actors."
— Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)


OPENS MARCH 10 EXCLUSIVELY AT AYALA CENTER CEBU CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CENTER CEBU

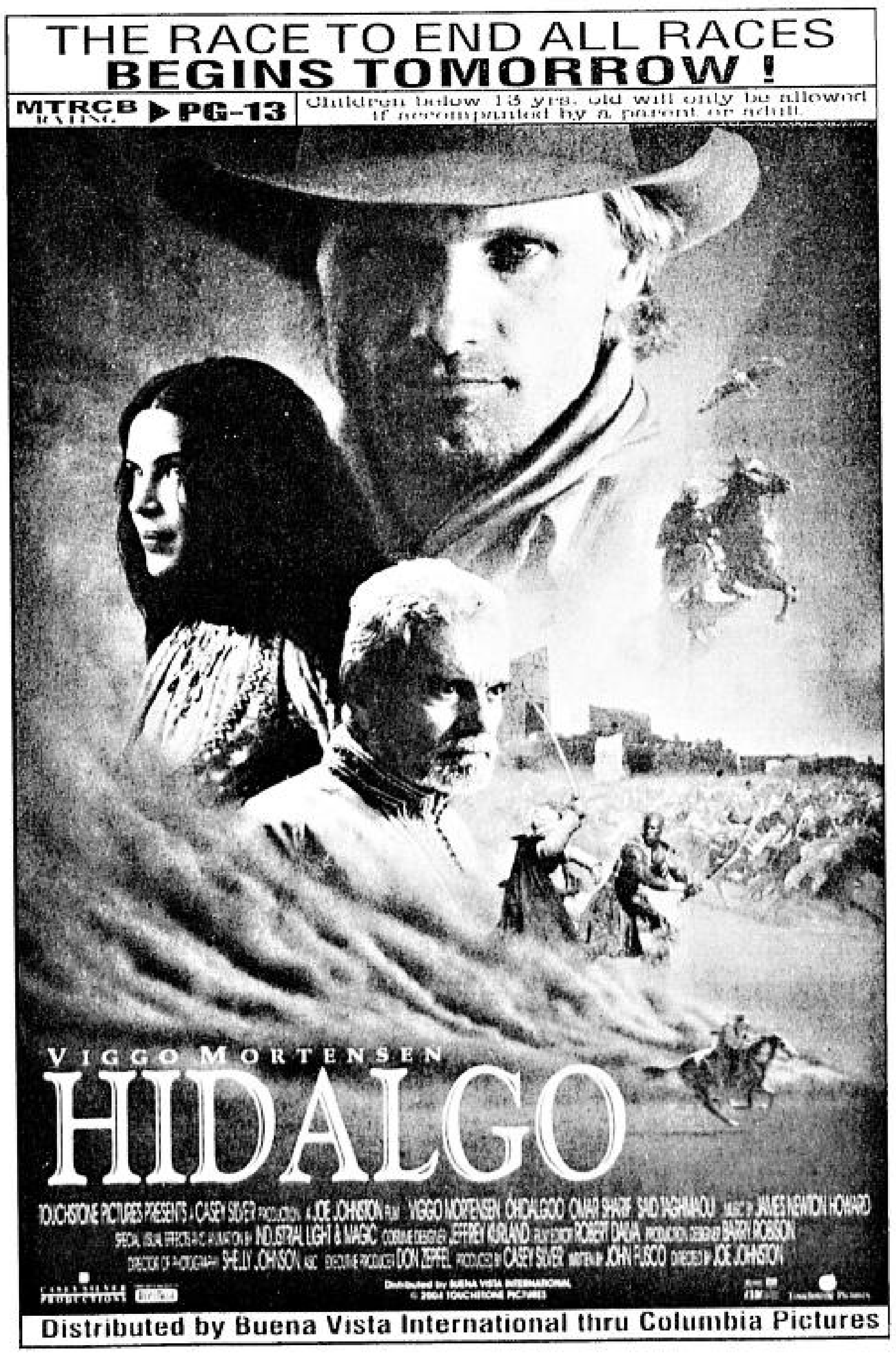
DIANE LANE

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

"Lane has once again given an Academy Award - worthy performance!"
— Paul Clinton, CNN

35 year-old writer Frances Mayes perfect life takes an unexpected detour. Her recent divorce leaves her with writer's block and her best friend suggests 10 days in Tuscany. On a whim, Frances buys a villa there to start fresh. As she flings herself into her new life, she finds new friends and new romances. Can this be what she dreamed of? Will love last under the Tuscan sun?

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

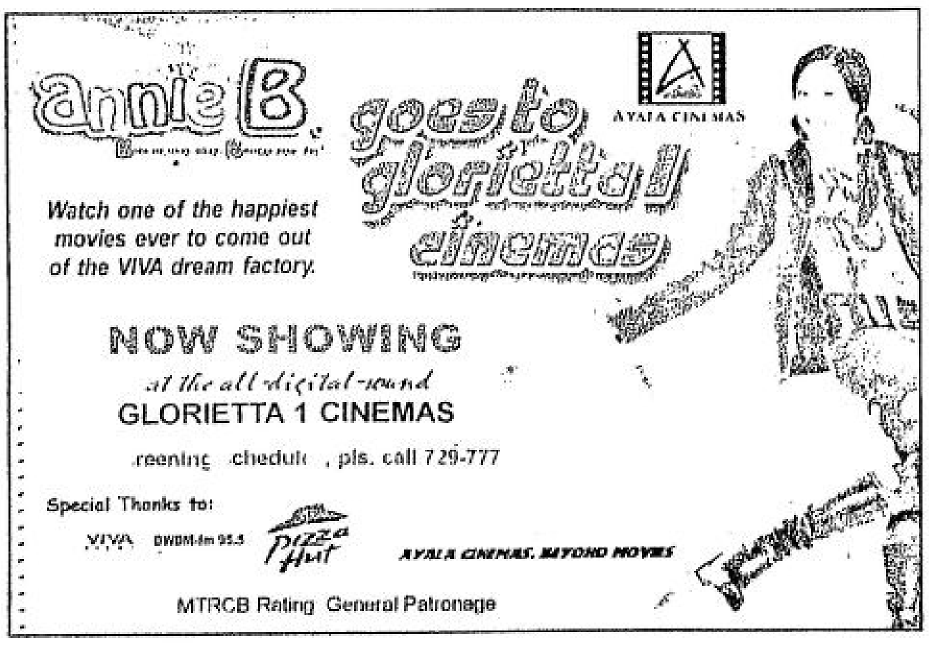

THE RACE TO END ALL RACES BEGINS TOMORROW!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

VIGGO MORTENSEN

HIDALGO

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


annie B.

goes to glorietta 1 cinemas

AYALA CINEMAS

Watch one of the happiest movies ever to come out of the VIVA dream factory.

NOW SHOWING

at the all-digital-sound
GLORIETTA 1 CINEMAS

reening chedule , pls. call 729-777

Special Thanks to:
VIVA DWDM-fm 95.5 Pizza Hut AYALA CINEMAS. BEYOND MOVIES

MTRCB Rating General Patronage

ENTERTAINM
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

AYA MEDEL

The return of the babe from Bicol

By Nini Valera

AYA Medel comes back, but is focusing on acting rather than baring.

THREE weeks into her show biz comeback, bold star Aya Medel underwent liposuction and skin whitening treatment.

She is also threatening to file a temporary restraining order on the showing of a movie she had left unfinished six years ago. The movie, "Two Men from Eden," had been completed recently with a new set of actors and is scheduled to open March 17 in Metro Manila theaters.

Directed by first-time director Edward Espiritu, a former actor who went by the name Eddie Villon, the movie is described as soft porn by technical people who had worked on it during post production last month.

Aya herself admitted to INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview last week that the movie is her boldest film so far in a career that spanned six years of the '90s "sex trip" trend in local movies.

Graphic sex scenes

"We really went naked in the movie," Aya confessed, also referring to co-stars Ana Capri and Allen Dizon. "The sex scenes were so graphic that they look real."

Her objection to the film's showing stems from the fact that she is now a married woman and the mother of an eight-month old child. She also claimed that she had not been paid by the producers, Tropical Films, owned by veteran director Romy Espiritu, father of the movie's director Edward.

"It's unfair for them (the producers) to show the movie since we were not paid for doing it," Aya pointed out. "We worked hard to do the film and we went through a lot of humiliation and hardship while shooting the movie."

She recalled that during a take, she and her co-stars had to romp naked in a fountain in front of a restaurant in a hotel in Subic. Customers of the restaurant, most of whom were foreigners, were gawking at them, Aya said, the embarrassment still vivid in her mind.

"I also asked everybody involved in the production, like Ana, and even our make-up artist who was forced to do a bit part in the movie, if they had been paid. They all told me they had not received a single centavo."

The reason for the non-payment is that the producers had run out of money while still in production.

Verbal agreement

Aya claimed that they couldn't even check out of the hotel where they had stayed in Subic for the duration of the film's shooting because the producer could not settle the bill.

But Director Romy Espiritu told INQUIRER Entertainment last Sunday that he only owed the actors and production staffers their pay for one day. He said he had hired Aya and the other actors on a daily basis with only a verbal agreement with their then manager Jojo Veloso, who is now a Board Member in Leyte.

"Do you think Jojo Veloso would have allowed them to shoot without pay? I admit that I failed to pay them for their last day shoot, but I had given them checks to cover the amounts I owe them. The bank did not honor the checks even if I had about P7 million in my account. I was told by the bank manager that all transactions had been stopped since there was something wrong with my account."

Veloso could not be reached for comment by INQUIRER Entertainment.

In December last year, Espiritu managed to obtain fresh capital to finish the movie. Arthur Cruz, the owner of an entertainment company and a talent recruiter, had invested P3 million on the movie, according to Espiritu.

The newly formed outfit, Camel Films, a partnership between Espiritu and Cruz, took over the final stages of production of "Two Men from Eden."

But instead of picking up where they left off, the producers hired bold starlets Hanni Miller and Stella L to complete the movie. The script had apparently been altered to accommodate the new recruits and to make sense of an unfinished story.

The movie's director, the younger Espiritu, however, claimed the story really called for new faces. He denied that Hanni and Stalla L were merely stand-

THE RETURN/ A22

Excessive fascination with stars' lives

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GMA-7's "Magpakailanman" prides itself for having changed the trend in local "reality-based" dramas on TV, by shifting the focus from stories about ordinary people, to glossy teleplays based on celebrities' lives, conflicts and secrets.

This shift has enabled the Channel 7 show to occasionally beat the former front-runner, Channel 2's "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" in the ratings race. Even more tellingly, the ABS-CBN show has been forced to also focus on stars' lives.

Viewers appear to approve of the new trend favoring celebrity dramas, because the two shows' ratings have been rising. On point of quality and significance, however, we deplore this development, because it aggravates our already excessive fascination with the lives of celebrities.

Yes, the stories are generally factual, so they don't descend to the level of smarmy, exploitative gossip. But they're still negative in effect, because they encourage viewers to poke their noses into stars' private pains and neuroses, instead of trying to get a handle on their own problems.

To make things worse, stars' woes are all too predictable, so their dramatized stories vivify only a narrow range of human experience. Impoverish childhood, childhood traumas, manipulative and exploitative parents—these are major problems, yes, but they cease to be instructive when dramatized for the nth time, and with so many dramatic flourishes.

But the biggest problem is the fact that the stars' stories have prevented non-show biz tales to be told. Since the general population isn't made up of celebrities, this is a major loss of relevance and patience.

Some years ago, shows like "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" were popular because they dealt with "ordinary" Filipinos' lives, but dramatized them with telling insights. As a result, they inspired many viewers to emulate the positive values that they vivified, and the collective TV audience was enabled by this.

Today, viewers still get "moral lessons" from the celebrity-based dramas they watch, but the pertinence has diminished, and the range of emphatic human experience has been drastically abridged.

So, we urge the shows in question not to be so smitten with celebrity dramas, and to remember that non-stars are more important than show biz luminaries, because they make up the great majority of the population.

We trust, too, that our viewers will realize that, no matter how exciting, glamorous and gossip-worthy, stars' lives aren't really all that significant, and don't deserve our near-exclusive attention.

Believe it or not, "ordinary" people's lives are more pertinent, because most viewers can genuinely empathize with them, and because they're much more, varied and colorful than the predictable travails of shoe biz luminaries.

Feedback

FROM **Ting Angeles**, California, USA: "I'm a regular reader of your column INQUIRER online. I just read your piece on "American Idol." I'm a huge fan of the show, particularly of **Clay Aiken**, the runner-up in "American Idol - 2."

"The first 'AI' winner was **Kelly Clarkson**, and the second was **Ruben Studdard**. But the most popular is Aiken. We American fans of Aiken call ourselves Claymates!

"On 'American Idol 3': Yes, **Camile Velasco**, who's a Filipino from Hawaii, qualified. She actually performed last Feb. 17 and was voted by America as the top singer in the following day's results.

"In my opinion, her voice is kinda weak, but she has a very good personality. I think there are Filipinos who are better than Camile. But I wish her all the best. She's already qualified in the top 12.

"From there, the competition gets even tougher. And if she can't control her nerves onstage, she may not have a chance to be the first Asian (and Filipino) American Idol.

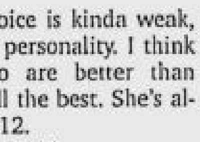
"But the good thing about Camile is, she's a favorite of the three judges, particularly **Simon**. That's good for her.

"I'm glad 'AI' can now be seen in the Philippines. I hope they will have Filipino Idol, so that we can show that Filipinos' sing very well! And we can compete in the annual 'World Idol' in December. (By the way, the first World Idol is **Kurt Nilsen** from Norway)."

Hot Babes turn cold toward Viva

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



SOME members of the Viva Hot Babes are set to bolt from the group because the entertainment company, which also manages them, gets 70 percent of their earnings, leaving them with only 30 percent.

This is according to a Viva insider, who told Dollywood that the sexy stars are dissatisfied with their contracts with the film outfit.

The insider said Viva bosses insist that they have the right to get a bigger slice of the Hot Babes since the company had given them big breaks in the movies.

But this has demoralized the girls, who feel that they have been reduced to sex objects as if they were mere possessions of their home studio.

No wonder some of the Hot Babes are now lukewarm toward Viva.

Normal people at home

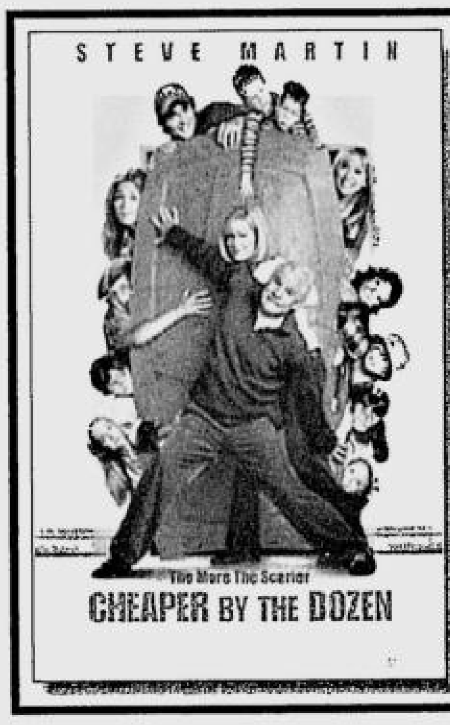
I WAS quite surprised to find out that in **Liza Lorena**'s home where her son **Ton Ton Gutierrez** also lives, there are no show biz pictures hanging on the walls or displayed anywhere in the house.

Their acting awards do not also have a sacred place in their abode—which is unusual, since celebrities hang their pictures on the walls and display their awards on shelves.

"When we are at home we want to act normal. We're not movie stars at home," Liza says. Other stars who are suffering from an acute case of narcissism should learn a thing or two from Liza and Ton.

Liza is ecstatic about Ton's and **Glydel**'s (Mercado) upcoming wedding even if she ad-

HOT A22



ADVANCE SCREENING
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA CInema 6
MARCH 9, 2004 7:30 PM
this MELLOW TOUCH 94 7 Screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL
MTRCB Rating: GP
OPENS on MARCH 10
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market

NOW SERVING!

NESTEA
BEACH VOLLEY 2004

Witness heart-pounding action, better than any box-office hit.
NESTEA Beach Volley 2004. Catch it live at a sand court near you.

LUZON ELIMINATIONS
February 27-29, 2004
Rockwell, Makati

VIS-MIN ELIMINATIONS
March 12-14, 2004
Ayala Center, Cebu

SEMI-FINALS
April 16, 2004
Boracay

FINALS
April 17-18, 2004
Boracay

Teamed up with: Buddy Pro-Pak, CEBU PACIFIC, speedo, MIKASA, POWER PLANT MALL AT ROCKWELL, AYALA CENTER CEBU

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 DRAGON VS. NINJA
2 ANNIE B
3 MILAN
4 COLD MOUNTAIN
5 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
6 GOTHIKA
7 DUPLEX
8 TORQUE

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 THE SPY
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 CHASING LIBERTY
5 ANNIE B
6 21 GRAMS
7 MILAN
8 RUNAWAY JURY

SM CITY BACOOR
4173668
1 DRAGON VS. NINJA
2 DUPLEX
3 TORQUE
4 MILAN
5 GOTHIKA
6 ANNIE B
7 KUYA
8 U-BELT

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884
1 COLD MOUNTAIN
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 ANNIE B
T4XAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 MILAN
2 GOTHIKA
3 TORQUE
4 ANNIE B.

SM BICUTAN
7763055
1 TORQUE
2 ANNIE B
3 MILAN
4 GOTHIKA

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4454565
1 RUNAWAY JURY
2 THE GATHERING
3 DIABLO
4EXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416
1 MILAN
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 GOTHIKA
4 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
5 TORQUE
6 DRAGON VS. NINJA
7 ANNIE B.
8 BONE SNATCHER
9 DUPLEX
10 WATER DEMON

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 NIGHTMARE
2 DUPLEX
3 GOTHIKA
4 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
5 DUDA/DOUBT
6 KUYA
7 ANNIE B
8 TORQUE
9 MILAN
10 DRAGON VS. NINJA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 DRAGON VS. NINJA
3 DUPLEX
4 TORQUE
5 BONE SNATCHER
6 MILAN
7 GOTHIKA
8 ANNIE B.
9 COLD MOUNTAIN
10 KUYA
11 U-BELT
12 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
2 ANNIE B.
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 U-BELT
2 RESERVED
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 WRONG TURN
5 CHASING LIBERTY
6 COLD MOUNTAIN
7 RESERVED
8 MILAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901
1 LOST IN TRANSLATION
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6366800
2 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
3 TORQUE
4 GOTHIKA
5 DUPLEX
6 BONE SNATCHER
7 NIGHTMARE
8 MILAN
9 ANNIE B
10 COLD MOUNTAIN
11 DRAGON VS. NINJA
12 RING: THE SPIRAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 TORQUE
2 GOTHIKA
3 MILAN
4 ANNIE B

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 GOTHIKA
2 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
3 COLD MOUNTAIN
4 TORQUE
5 DUPLEX
6 BONE SNATCHER
7 DRAGON VS. NINJA
8 KUYA
9 MILAN
10 NIGHTMARE
11 RING: THE SPIRAL
12 ANNIE B

SM CITY DAVAO
2976996
1 RUNAWAY JURY
2 21 GRAMS
3 MILAN
4 HAUNTED MANSION
5 IN THE CUT
6 HAUNTED OFFICE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 GOTHIKA
2 RUNAWAY JURY
3 KUYA
4 MILAN
5 LOST IN TRANSLATION
6 ANNIE B

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80
1 DUPLEX
2 IN THE CUT
3 MILAN
4 THE GATHERING

THE PODIUM
CINEMA
1 TORQUE
11:30FS/11:55 MF
/1:45/3:35/5:25/
7:15/9:05/10:30 LFS /
11:00 LMF/12:25 END
2 GOTHIKA
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/12:40 END
For Seat Reservation call 633 6578
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA
now showing

mar9 2004

See the first full-length digital movie to be released commercially in local theaters!

Showing only at
SM Southmall
Cinema 5

for screening schedules :
833 9999

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 ANNIE B.	1 TORQUE 2 DUPLEX	ArtFilm 1 GOTHIKA 12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE	THX 1 GOTHIKA
2 TORQUE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE 4 THE BONE SNATCHER	2 SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 GOTHIKA 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00 11:15	2 DUPLEX
3 MILAN	5 RUNAWAY JURY	Onstage REPERTORY'S DRACULA Mar. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LOST IN TRANSLATION GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DUPLEX 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30	3 TORQUE 4 ANNIE B
4 GOTHIKA	6 GOTHIKA 7 MYSTIC RIVER		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TORQUE 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30	5 SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 MILAN
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 TORQUE
4 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
5 COLD MOUNTAIN
6 GOTHIKA
7 DUPLEX
8 ANNIE B
9 NIGHTMARE
10 DRAGON VS NINJA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 SOMETHINGS GOTTA GIVE
2 TORQUE
3 GOTHIKA
4 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274
1 ANNIE B
2 U BELT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 ANNIE B
TORQUE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) U BELT
5

METROPOLIS
www.clickthecity.com.ph star
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 DRAGON VS. NINJA
2 U BELT
3 ANNIE B
4 MILAN
5 GOTHIKA
6 TORQUE

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 GHOST HOUSE
2 TWIN EFFECTS

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503
THX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 KUYA
2 HAUNTED MANSION

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 ANNIE B
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA
Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
5 RESERVE
6
7
8
9

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 U BELT
2 ANNIE B
3 MILAN
4 DRAGON VS NINJA
5 KUYA
6 TORQUE
7 GOTHIKA
8 WATER DEMON
9 GHOST HOUSE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2
3
4
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 MILAN
2 ANNIE B
3 WATER DEMON
4 U BELT
5

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson
Lords

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANNIE B
2 TORQUE
3 GOTHIKA
4 DRAGON VS NINJA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 TORQUE
2 NIGHTMARE
3 GOTHIKA
4 ANNIE B
5 U BELT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029
1 U BELT
2 MILAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX 7
1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED
3 ANNIE B
4 GOTHICA
5 TORQUE
6 DRAGON VS. NINJA
7 WATER DEMON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RUN AWAY JURY
2 ANNIE B
3 GOTHIKA
4 WHISING STAIRS

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 KUYA
2 ANNIE B
3 GOTHIKA
4 RUN AWAY JURY

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 ANNIE B
2 KUYA
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 CHASING LIBERTY

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 WATER DEMON
2 GOTHIKA
3 ANNIE B

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 WATER DEMON
2 ANNIE B
3 GOTHIKA
4 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 ANNIE B
2 GOTHIKA
3 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
4 WATER DEMON

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 KUYA
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 HAUNTED MANSION

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ANNIE B
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 KUYA
4 WISHING STAIRS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-1320
1 ANNIE B
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 RUN AWAY JURY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 WATER DEMON
2 PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
3 U BELT
4 GHOST HOUSE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 GOTHIKA
2 ANNIE B
3 WATER DEMON
4 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
5 GHOST HOUSE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 ANNIE B
2 GHOST HOUSE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 GOTHIKA
2 ANNIE B
3 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 U BELT
2 KUYA
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 ANNIE B

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 U BELT
2 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
3 COLD MOUNTAIN
4 ANNIE B

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 ANNIE B
2 U BELT

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

julia roberts
mona lisa smile

NOW SHOWING

Gibson's 'Passion' rakes in $200 M

LOS ANGELES—Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" took in $51.4 million in its second weekend to remain the top movie, racing past the $200 million mark in just 12 days.

Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson's action comedy "Starsky & Hutch" debuted in second place with $29.05 million, while Viggo Mortensen's horse-racing adventure "Hidalgo" opened at No. 3 with $19.6 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"The Passion," Gibson's bloody reenactment of Christ's crucifixion, has grossed $212 million so far in the United States and Canada. The movie is expected to top $300 million, said Bob Berney, president of Newmarket Films.

The independent distributor was hired by Gibson to release "The Passion" after Hollywood studios passed on it.

Rising revenues

The film, which stars Jim Caviezel as Christ, held up strongly, with receipts down just 39 percent from its huge opening weekend of $83.8 million. Movies debuting to such high numbers often drop 50 percent or more in their second weekends.

"The Passion" propelled Hollywood to a second straight weekend of rising revenues after a prolonged slump. The top 12 movies grossed $131.5 million, up 39 percent from the same weekend last year.

Before "The Passion" opened, box-office revenues had been running seven percent behind last year's. Two big weekends for "The Passion" have pulled the industry virtually even with last year's receipts, according to box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The Academy Awards gave a solid bounce to best-picture winner "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," which climbed back into the top 10 with $3.2 million, raising its total to $368.3 million.

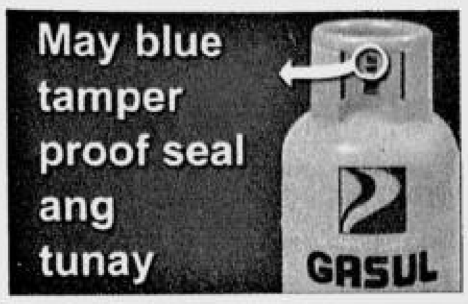
"The Passion" rode a storm of debate over its grisly violence and accusations of anti-Semitism to become the first religious blockbuster since the 1950s epics "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben-Hur."

Its success indicates Christian crowds rarely targeted by filmmakers will flock to theaters when a movie suits them.

Ignored market

"I think it does show there's an ignored market, but the way I look at it, it's film by film. To make this work, you have to have a brilliant film. The audience is very discerning," Berney said.

In the next week, "The Passion" will climb past the $228 million total take for "Signs," the top-grossing movie Gibson has been connected with. Even adjusting Gibson's "Lethal Weapon"


May blue tamper proof seal ang tunay
GASUL

TUESDAY,
MARCH 9, 2004

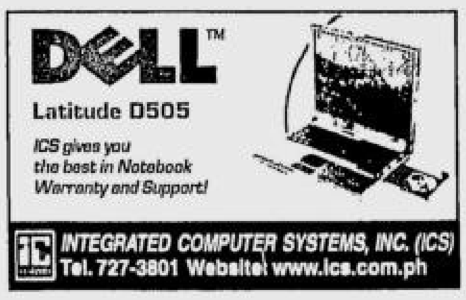
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma


DELL™
Latitude D505
ICS gives you the best in Notebook Warranty and Support!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

BSP intervention prevents peso freefall

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday tested its all-time low of 56.35 to the dollar in morning trade but recovered upon the intervention of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, traders said.

The depreciation of the local currency yesterday was due to the build-up of corporate demand. The peso was also weighed down by the weakening of other currencies in the region, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

It was the third time in two weeks that the peso attempted to break past its all-time low. The local currency opened at the intraday low of 56.35 but firmed up when the BSP started unloading dollars at the Philippine Dealing System.

Traders estimated that the BSP sold between $15 million and $25 million to support the peso at 56.35 to $1 out of yesterday's value turnover of $112 million.

The peso closed firmer at 56.22 to the dollar due to the fresh liquidity infused by the BSP at the spot foreign exchange market.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the peso was dragged down by weak regional markets in the morning but recovered in the afternoon due to dollar inflow from portfolio investments and overseas remittances. He denied that the BSP had defended the peso by selling dollars at the spot market.

Seasonally, however, the first quarter is weak for the peso due to meager dollar inflow.

Other traders said the currency also came under pressure from jitters over the nearing presidential elections as well as the decline in the country's gross international reserves to $15.76 billion as of end-February from $16.08 billion in January on foreign exchange outflow arising from public sector debt servicing.

Dollar earners were also still hesitant to convert their money to pesos as evident in the rise of foreign currencies deposited with the local banking system to historic highs. Foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) accounts now total $13.69 billion, topping the previous high of $13.4 billion recorded only a week ago.

FCDUs, considered as the country's secondary layer of foreign exchange reserves, historically attract more deposits whenever the peso is on a freefall against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the BSP also announced yesterday that demand for money grew by 4.1 percent to P1.7 trillion in January from a year ago.

Gov't to lower duty on imported cement

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is finally lowering the safeguard duty on imported cement by P5 from P20.50 per 40-kilogram bag to temper the high prices of cement, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said yesterday.

Purisima added that the inspection period for imports were also being shortened from the current 28 days, which would be more effective in easing the entry of imported cement.

"We have yet to determine whether the inspection period should be reduced to seven or 14 days," the official said.

Purisima said the Department of Trade and Industry was not that convinced that the safeguard duty reduction would push down prices. "So rather than (change) the duty first, we focused on the access to the market and see what happens."

He said shortening the inspection period would have a greater impact on prices.

"With a 28-day inspection period, you have practically disallowed imports because it would take longer for imports to come in," Purisima explained. "Supplies would sit too long in warehouses, the cement would harden."

Purisima said the DTI would be issuing a department order on the matter. Such an order needs 15 days after publication in at least two newspapers before it could be effective.

Purisima's predecessor, Manuel Roxas II, before he resigned last Dec. 10, had said the DTI reviewed the industry data and concluded that the recent price increases were not warranted by increased cost of factory inputs.

As a result, the DTI under Roxas had considered to lower the import duty by P5 a bag.

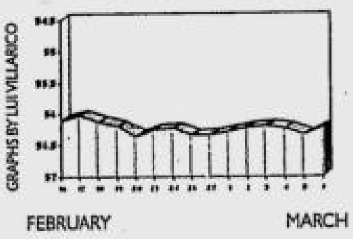
In January, the DTI also planned an additional P5 reduction in the safeguard duty. But yesterday, Purisima said the department would be implementing only the original reduction of P5 a bag rather than a total of P10.

Late in February, Purisima said local cement prices had started to go down, although "not yet to the price levels we want," and that the DTI was continuing to monitor the market.

DTI data showed that as of Feb. 12, a 40-kg bag was selling at a national average of P135—a hint of an uptrend from the January average of P134 and the December average of P127.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.22= $1

As of 5 p.m.,March 8, 2004

¥ 112.19 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., March 8, 2004

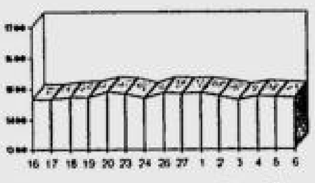
GOLD: $399.25-400.75

per ounce Hong Kong, March 8, 2004

March 8, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.807754443	1.000000	56.3210
Japan	Yen	0.007211	0.008927	0.5028
United Kingdom	Pound	1.491761	1.846800	104.0136
Hongkong	Dollar	0.10375	0.128442	7.2340
Switzerland	Franc	0.633136	0.783822	44.1456
Canada	Dollar	0.611056	0.756487	42.6061
Singapore	Dollar	0.471682	0.583942	32.8882
Australia	Dollar	0.612678	0.758495	42.7192
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.142641	2.652590	149.3965
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215413	0.266681	15.0197
Brunei	Dollar	0.470309	0.582242	32.7925
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.020527	0.025413	1.4313
UAE	Dirham	0.219917	0.272257	15.3338
Euro	Euro	1	1.238000	69.7254
Argentina	Peso	0.275215	0.340716	19.1895
Brazil	REAL	0.28086	0.347705	19.5831
Denmark	Kroner	0.134201	0.166141	9.3572
India	Rupee	0.017863	0.022114	1.2455
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212595	0.263193	14.8233
Mexico	New Peso	0.07397	0.091575	5.1576
New Zealand	Dollar	0.544676	0.674309	37.9778
Norway	Kroner	0.115279	0.142716	8.0379
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014116	0.017476	0.9843
South Africa	Rand	0.122759	0.151976	8.5594
Korea	Won	0.000689	0.000853	0.0480
Sweden	Kroner	0.109059	0.135015	7.6042
Syria	Pound	0.01566	0.019387	1.0919
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024345	0.030139	1.6975
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000422	0.000522	0.0294

Stocks drop on weak peso, rising rates

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS eased yesterday on concerns a weak peso and rising interest rates would hurt companies, analysts said.

The peso matched its record low of 56.35 a dollar during morning trade, while interest rates jumped at a bill auction on uncertainty over who will win the presidential election on May 10.

"Investors are cautious of the weak peso and expectations of rising interest rates," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

"At the start of the year, investors were bullish on prospects of Philippine business. But with the peso at a record low and higher interest rates, they are now more careful and are re-assessing their strategies." The main index ended 2.89 points or 0.2 percent lower at 1,468.76, cutting its gain for the year so far to 1.83 percent.

Market turnover rose to P617.49 million ($11 million) from Friday's P400.27 million. Losers beat gainers 24 to 21, with 38 stocks unchanged.

Del Castillo said he expected the market to drift within a 1,450 to 1,480 range this week. *Reuters*

Gov't sells IOUs at 7.312%

THE GOVERNMENT raised P2.06 billion from yesterday's auction of 42-day cash management bills (CMBs), which it decided to issue for the first time in more than three years after a series of failed auctions for regular treasury bills and bonds.

The P2.06 billion, however, was lower than the government's original offering of P4 billion.

The average rate for the 42-day CMBs reached 7.312 percent, or 42.1 basis points higher than the 6.891-percent average of the 91-day treasury bills recorded in the failed auction last week. It was also higher than the average rate of 6.435 percent during the auction last Feb. 16, when the government last accepted bids for the 91-day treasury bills.

National Treasurer Mina Figueroa, however, said the higher rate for the 42-day debt paper did not mean that the government was poised to allow rates on government securities to increase further. *Michelle V. Remo*

ING selling Asian stock business

DUTCH banking giant ING Group has forged a deal to sell its Asian stock market businesses in 10 Asian countries—including the Philippines—to Australian investment bank Macquarie.

In a statement yesterday, Macquarie Bank said it would acquire 100 percent of ING's Asian cash equity sales, sales trading, facilitation trading, execution, research and equity capital markets across Asia, including some corporate vehicles.

The acquisition covers ING's stock market operations in 10 Asian locations: Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines as well as its Asian sales and trading desks in London, New York and other European and North America.

ING Securities Philippines was fifth among the top brokers at the Philippine Stock Exchange in 2003 with a market share of 4.47 percent.

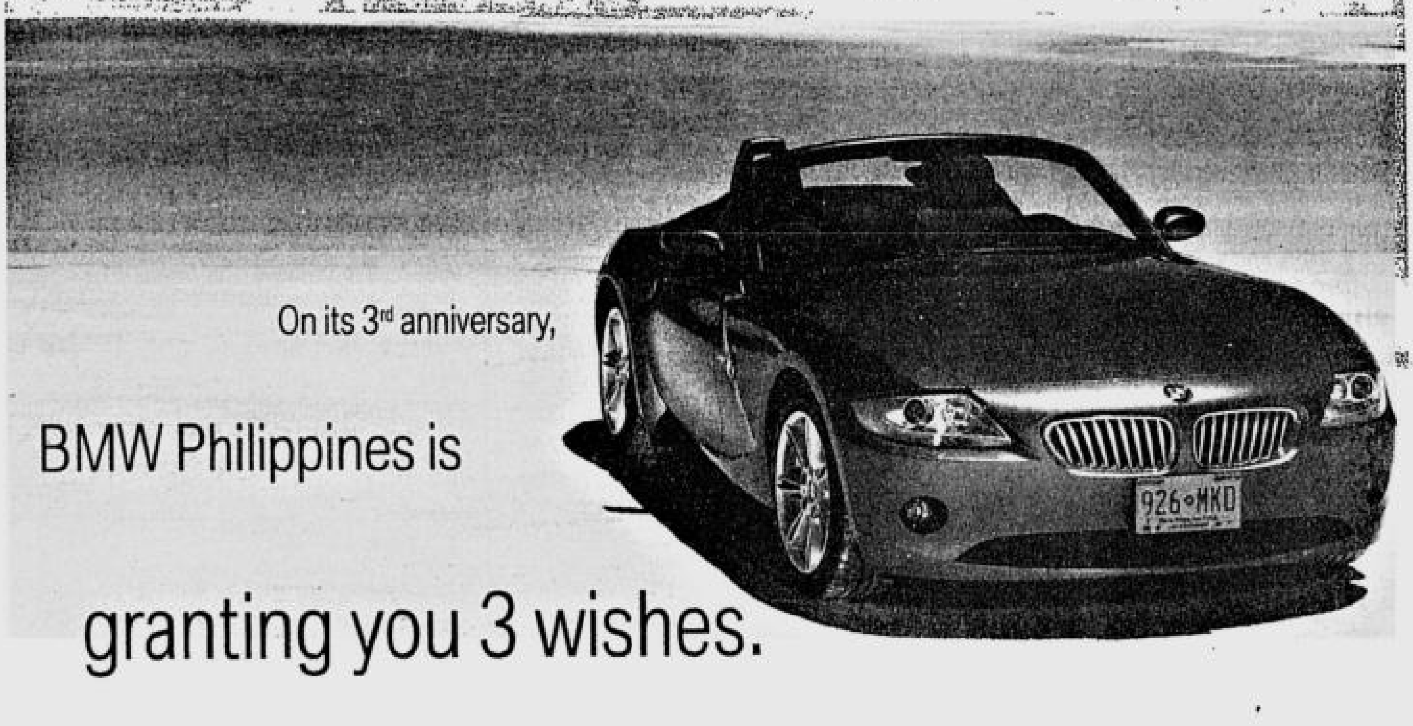
A source at ING Securities Philippines yesterday said it would be business as usual at the Manila office, which employs more than 10 people.

"There will be no disruptions because they're buying the entire regional business. What will happen is that we'll just change the branding," the source said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

INTEREST RATES

March 08, 2004-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 8-Mar-04	MART1 5-Mar-04
1 Month	7.1862	7.1333
3 Months	7.5923	7.1583
6 Months	9.1	8.6483
1 Year	9.9375	9.8983
2 Years	10.7232	10.7517
3 Years	11.4921	11.5283
4 Years	11.8911	11.9117
5 Years	12.1339	12.1933
7 Years	12.6979	12.75
10 Years	13.0089	13.0667
20 Years	13.1885	13.2911
25 Years	13.4173	13.5554

SOURCE · MART/BLOOMBERG


BMW Philippines
3rd anniversary
BMW
Sheer Driving Pleasure
www.bmw.com.ph

On its 3rd anniversary,
BMW Philippines is
granting you 3 wishes.

To celebrate the 3rd anniversary of BMW Philippines, we are making it easier for you to experience the joy of owning a BMW. From March 1 to April 3, we are granting you 3 wishes by giving you limited price down offers, zero interest and zero payment plans, and a chance to win a brand new BMW Z4.

Visit any authorized BMW dealer today, and make your wish come true.

Wish 1 **Win a BMW Z4.**

Get any brand new BMW car or SAV and you automatically get a chance to win one of the world's most desirable cars—the BMW Z4.

Wish 2 **0% interest and zero monthly payments for BMW 3 Series.***

Pay half now for any brand new BMW 3 Series car, then pay the other half after 12 months. No interest, no monthly payments.

* Provided by BMW Financial Services, in partnership with Security Bank.

Wish 3 **Price down for all models of BMW Certified Pre-Owned.**

Get a **BMW Certified** Pre-Owned* of your choice, available at a limited price down offer. Visit any authorized BMW dealer to appreciate the wide range of models available.

*Previously owned.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0529 Series of 2004

Performance Auto BMW (Cebu) Magallanes St. corner P. Burgos St., Cebu City Tel. (032) 256 3491 Fax (032) 256 3492 • **Premier Cars BMW (Pampanga)** CCIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. (045) 963 7777 Fax (045) 963 3355 • **Autohaus BMW (Libis)** 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City Tel. (02) 638 0734 Fax (02) 438 0419 • **Prestige Cars BMW (Makati)** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 Fax (02) 816 7325 • **PGA Cars BMW (EDSA)** 201 EDSA, Mandaluyong City Tel. (02) 727 0381 Fax (02) 727 0390

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.
The Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

AUTOMATION OF 2004 BOD ELECTIONS

Please be advised that the elections of the Board of Directors in the Annual Stockholders' Meeting on 13 March 2004 will be fully automated. The automation system will be provided by Mega Data Corporation (MDC).

As part of the preparations, MDC will hold a briefing on the automation system for the stockholders on these dates:

11 March 2004 (Thursday), 2:00 pm Tektite Trading Floor

12 March 2004 (Friday), 2:00 pm Ayala Trading Floor

The presence of the stockholders will be most appreciated.

RODOLFO V. CRUZ
Chairman
Nominations and Elections Committee

Wow toll!

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S summer time. Officially, of course, summer starts when the school year is over. Or when the kids start to get on your nerves just by being home. Whichever comes first.

Most likely, as a typical Pinoy who has no illegitimate children, because they can never be considered as natural born Filipinos, even if they were born in your own living room, you are already preparing an out-of-town trip for the family.

It is not easy. Coming together every summer in this country, as you very well know, is almost half of the entire human race, both living and dead. This summer, there is no escaping the heavy traffic on the misnamed "highway."

The usual two-hour trip becomes a 10-hour one. This, luckily, should give you enough time to enjoy the out-of-town resort for about 20 quality minutes with the kids.

***

FOR in this country, under whatever administration, be it the "cute" or the "quiet" type, the government never really pays attention to building long highways across the country.

That's why I took interest in the new, improved 40-year old North Luzon Expressway, or the NLE, that 82-kilometer stretch leading to wonderful places in the northern part of the country, such as the *lahar* area in Central Luzon. Oops.

I know that former Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, now running for senator, takes pride in the tourist destinations in the north. You have the old houses in Vigan, the cool weather of Baguio and the smell of *bagoong* in Pangasinan.

Anyway, I just want to say that the government is not even doing the NLE repair and rehabilitation. Doing it, mind you, is a private firm. Wow, *tol*, heavy!

***

NOW almost completed, with just three to four months to go in the rehabilitation project, the NLE rehab is being done by the Manila North Tollway Corp., or the MNTC.

That is a consortium put together by the Lopez group. It includes the French group Aegis, the largest tollway operator in the world, the Australian construction firm Leighton and NLE owner PNCC.

The NLE has a completely new look. New asphalt pavements. More lanes. New contemporary style toll booths. Bigger interchanges. More beautiful toll collectors. *Este*, no, I mean, they are more courteous.

Well, by the time it is done, the MNTC will have spent roughly $370 million. This is about P20 billion, at today's exchange rate, at least as of this writing.

***

BUT I can almost hear the public outcry against the MNTC. Because of its huge investments in the rehab project, it will have to raise the NLE toll. Any rate increase is bound to get the public all riled up and ready to ... well, complain in media.

It is going to be a big jump from the present rate. Today, the NLE charges only 33 centavos per kilometer.

Most likely, from what I heard, if the MNTC wants to recover its investment, it must charge something like P2.40 per kilometer by 2005, when the new and improved NLE is fully operational.

In other words, with such a huge jump, it is bound to surprise the public. Wow toll! And the public is bound to call the increase another case of highway robbery.

***

NOT so fast, Cleofas, because it is not fair to compare the new toll for the rehabilitated NLE with the old rates for the old godforsaken NLE, which was almost reduced to rubble.

To be fair, we have to compare the new NLE rates with those of other tollways, such as the South Luzon Tollway, or the SLE and the Coastal Tollway.

Today, the SLE charges P3.20 per kilometer for its so-called "AT GRADE LEVEL," meaning it is not the SKYWAY.

On the "skyway," you pay P75 for six kilometers, which makes the rate something like P12.50 per kilometer, and still you suffer heavy traffic.

Thus we spent billions upon billions on a six-kilometer skyway, and all for what? So that we can get faster to the traffic choke points?

***

ANYWAY, as I was saying, the proposed NLE toll is much cheaper than the others.

In other words, the NLE toll comes out the cheapest among the existing tollways, despite the supposed "huge" jump from the current rates.

Today, sure, the coastal toll is lower at only P1.84 per kilometer, but by 2005, based on the TRB program, it will increase to P2.82 per kilometer.

The SLE toll will be P3.79 per kilometer by then, and that is the "AT GRADE LEVEL." I hate to think what the "skyway" toll will be. Somewhere in the sky, maybe!

***

BUT of course, after the P20-billion rehabilitation, the toll increase will have to be done. The PNCC did not raise the rates for the past 20 years.

How could it? The PNCC, or its predecessor, the original operator called CDCP, never maintained the expressway.

So we have a 40 year old highway which has never been maintained. Why? The revenue went somewhere else, that's why, to only God knows where.

After 40 years of neglect, if the NLE were only a church, by now it would have turned into another tourist spot known as "ruins."

***

FOR the past 20 years, the NLE had no rate increase. For one, just inflation itself ate up the old rates.

If we only consider inflation, the old rates should be P2.14 per kilometer by today, or about P176 for the whole stretch of ... well, old dilapidated road.

For the new improved NLE, you pay P180 for the entire stretch. That's an additional P4.

But the ride is smooth, the travel time much shortened, the traffic congestion gone and the toll booths and interchanges more pleasing to the eye.

I thought I could pay more than that rate for all those things. Gosh, I will pay anything just to get rid of the monstrous traffic jam on what we, ironically or laughingly refer to as "expressway."

PNOC Exploration Corporation
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, 1634 Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. (+632) 893-1320 / 893-5001 Fax (+632) 840-2055 / 840-1459

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEGOTIATED SALE

PNOC Exploration Corporation ("PNOC-EC"), with office address at Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, invites interested parties to participate in the negotiated sale for the purchase of 49% of PNOC EC's 10% participating interest in Service Contract No. 38 ("SC38").

SC 38 is contract entered into by the Republic of the Philippines and Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., Shell Philippines LLC, Chevron Texaco Malampaya LLC and PNOC-EC for the purpose of offshore exploration and development of oil and gas in an area covering 834 square kilometers of deep water acreage located approximately 80 km northwest of the northern end of the island of Palawan in the South China Sea. PNOC-EC currently holds a 10% participatinginterest in SC 38 which includes the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project (the "Malampaya Project"). The Malampaya Project constitutes the largest single industrial project in the history of the Republic and is the first commercial exploitation of natural gas within the Philippines.

Interested parties may contact PNOC-EC's financial adviser, ING Bank N.V. - Investment Banking Group during regular office hours to obtain the relevant documents and information in connection with the negotiated sale process and the transaction at the following offices:

In the Philippines,

21st Floor, Ayala Tower 1
Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Philippines
Tel. No. (+632) 840 8887

In Hong Kong,

39th Floor, One International Finance Center
1 Harbour View Street,
Central
Hong Kong
Tel. No. (+852) 2913 8680

Indications of interest to participate in the negotiated sale by parties are due by 12:00 noon on March 23, 2004. Parties who have indicated an intention to participate in the negotiated sale may be granted, at the sole option of the Privatization Committee, the opportunity to conduct due diligence in connection with the proposed sale. Agents, brokers, advisers and other persons acting independent of any direct interested party will not be entertained. Only authorized representatives of interested parties bearing authorization letters will be entertained.

All particulars relative to the negotiated sale process shall be governed by applicable laws, rules and regulations as well as relevant SC 38-related contracts and agreements. PNOC-EC does not assume any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any party for any expense that may be incurred in the negotiated sale process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Privatization Committee reserves the right to reject any and all letters of intent or bids, or not award the contract, or to change or annul the negotiated sale process, including, extension of the pertinent deadlines, at any time, or to accept such offers as may be considered most advantageous to the government, without giving any reason therefor and incurring any liability to the affected interesting parties.

The recommendation by the Privatization Committee to accept an offer is subject to the final approval of the Privatization Council.

(Sgd) Nelson B. Bayot, Sr.
Chairman
PNOC-EC Privatization Committee

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 8, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	71,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45	45.5	180,200
China Banking Corp.	655	655	655	655	6,130
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38	38	38	19,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.58	1,290,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	25.5	25	25	203,300
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	100
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	11,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	26,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.72	0.5	0.72	120,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	150	170	150	170	1,130
Manulife Financial Corp.	2015	2015	2010	2010	1,120
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	159	159	159	159	30
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1500	1500	1500	330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.75	23	22.75	23	4,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	2,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	865	875	860	870	68,840
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	1,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.58	1.66	16,063,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	960	965	950	955	386,880
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.75	20	19.75	20	13,800
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	18,400
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	1,405,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.22	107,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	11,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	346,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	4,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.95	4	3.95	4	32,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	4,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	200
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	56.5	224,600
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69.5	69	69	45,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	240,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	520,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6.1	6	6	1,260,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3	3	3	3	12,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.3	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	210,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.14	2,510,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	77,400
Macroasia Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	590,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	330,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	2,500
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23	23	22.75	22.75	111,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	645,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.145	0.15	1,360,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	420,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	605,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	16,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	580,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	11,460,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0032	0.0028	0.0032	92,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	380,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,958,940	23,517,130.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	35,963,220	517,911,810.00
PRO	31,580,000	75,331,160.00
Mining	96,720,000	507,600.00
OIL	13,000,000	96,500.00
GRAND TOTALS :	179,222,160	617,364,200.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	432.54	DOWN 0.02
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,289.55	DOWN 2.91
PRO	525.20	DOWN 4.43
Mining	1,470.55	UP 13.05
OIL	1.23	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	938.37	DOWN 0.57
Composite	1,468.76	DOWN 2.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 1,086

DISCLOSURES

HOUSE of Investments Inc. denied having any information that could explain the increase in its share price that rose from P0.30 to P0.45 each.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25 at 8 a.m. Stockholders of record as of April 26 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University declared a cash dividend of P0.10 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of April 20 and will be payable on May 14. Also, the university will negotiate for the lease of the NIDC Building for its planned extension campus in Makati City.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. declared a cash dividend of P29.17 per share.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 15,000 of its own shares at P1.90 each.

* * *

STARTING March 9, over 18.4 million common shares of **Makati Finance Corp.** previously locked-up will be tradable.

* * *

A. SORIANO Corp.'s 1.34 million shares were bought by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Italian firm to sell stake in Del Monte

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ITALIAN food maker Cirio Group has announced plans to sell its 40 percent stake in Del Monte Pacific Ltd.

The listed firm in Singapore owns the Del Monte pineapple-based processed food and drinks in the Philippines.

Del Monte Philippines declined to elaborate on the proposed sale, saying it was a "shareholder matter."

In its announcement in Singapore, Cirio Finaziara S.p.A. said it planned to dispose of its 39.99 percent stake in DMPL through an auction.

News wire reports indicated that the auction may likely be completed by the second half this year.

A company source, however, said it has yet to determine whether the sale will push through.

In a conference call following the release of its third quarter results last year, the board of DMPL said operating subsidiaries of Cirio with which DMPL trades with "are not governed by Chapter 11."

This was after reports said Cirio defaulted on about 1.2 billion Euros in bonds in 2002 which prompted it to be placed under Amministrazione Straordinaria or similar to Chapter 11 bankruptcy provisions in the US.

Aside from being a majority shareholder in DMPL, the Cirio group through operating subsidiaries account for 10 percent of DMPL's group sales.

DMPL earlier said that the company expects effects of the El Niño dry spell to continue this year.

DMPL, however, was optimistic it would improve its financial performance this year.

"El Niño is a cyclical phenomenon which occurs about every five years. It hit us in early

ITALIAN / B3

Italian firm to sell stake …

From page B2

2003, and given the 18-month gestation of our pineapple growing cycle, it should still have residual effects into 2004. Recently, improvements in fruit quality suggest the worst is over," DMPL earlier said.

SUBIC'S BETTER THAN EVER
SEMINAR and FAMILY DEALS

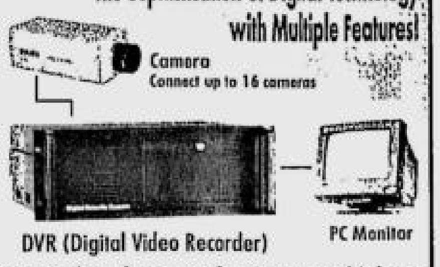
P650 PER PAX TRIPLE SHARING W/ 3 FULL MEALS
P400 PER PAX DOUBLE-ROOM QUADRUPLE OVERNIGHTER
P450 PER PAX TWIN SHARING OVERNIGHTER
AS LOW AS P4000 MONTHLY HOLIDAY FAMILY APARTELLES

* FULLY FURNISHED *

PLUS CABLE TV • 2 SWIMMING POOLS • GYM PLUS SEMINAR VENUE & PROPS PLUS FOREST TREK W/ BATROOSTS • BIRDVIEWS • MONKEYS IN WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES HANGING BRIDGE & TREEHOUSE PARK PLUS ALL THAT ONLY SUBIC OFFERS • DUTY FREE SHOPPING • CASINO • CLEAN BEACHES • MARINE & WILDLIFE PARKS • JUNGLE SURVIVAL

CALL CROWN PEAK DIRECT: CUBI, SUBIC FREEPORT
TEL.: 047 252-9236 / 3144; (0918) 929-5049/ 5052 / 5069; (0920) 912-0174 / 903-9112

For Smart & Highly Reliable Security System...
GO DIGITAL with HOWARD DVR!
The Sophistication of Digital Technology with Multiple Features!



Practical Replacement for VCR or Multiplexer

Also Available: ULTRAK High Tech CCTV Equipments • FBII Fire & Burglary Alarm System • Proximity Access Control • Security Locking System • Perimeter Protection System • Metal Detection • Security Lights with Infrared Motion Sensor and Alarm/Chime, etc.

yutiam HARDWARE CO., INC.
ELECTRONIC SECURITY DIVISION
936-938 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tels.: (632) 711-4959 to 61 Fax: (632) 711-4810

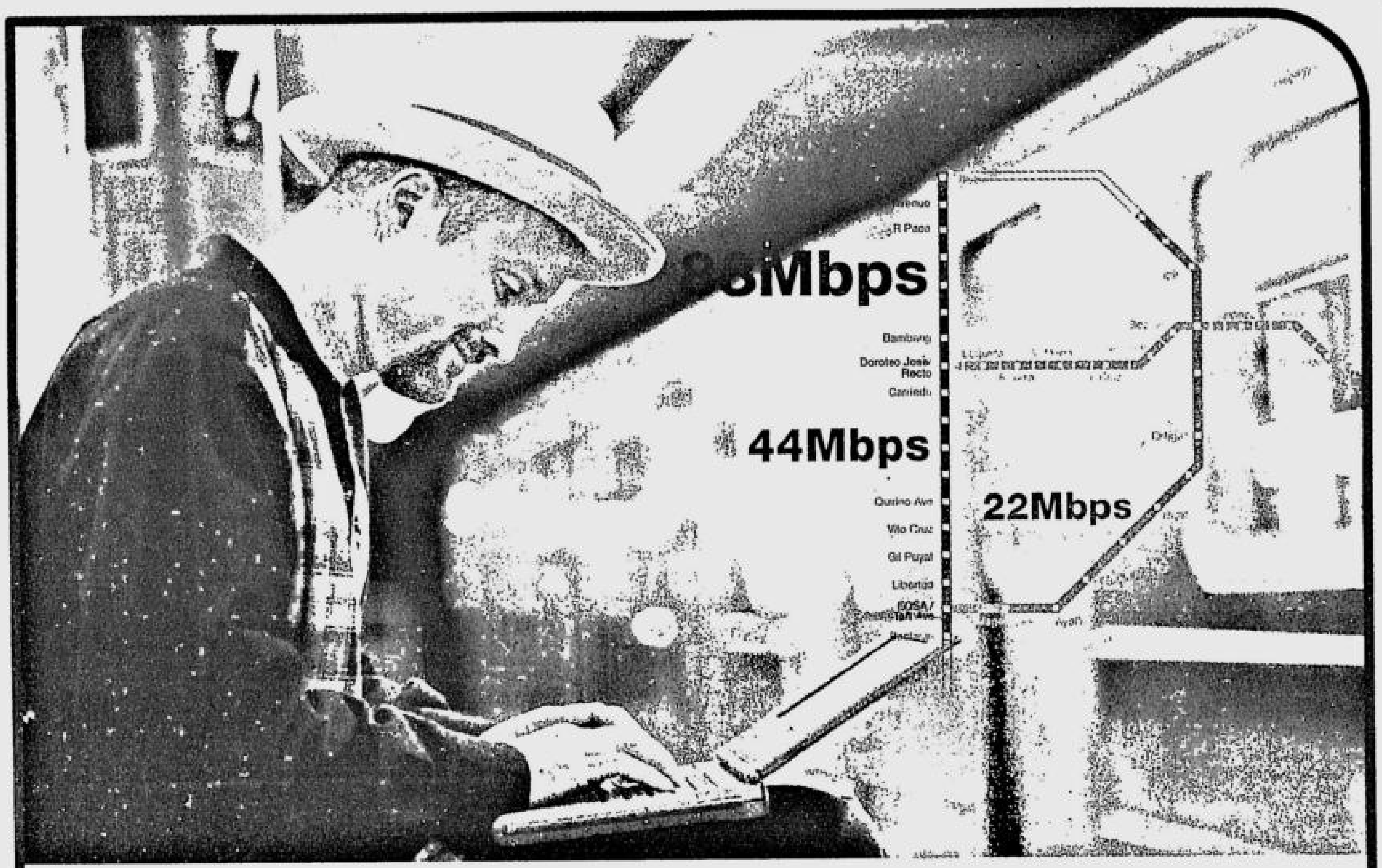
FAST, RELIABLE ANALYSIS
WIP
TESTING LABORATORY
MINERAL & PHYSICAL PROPERTIES TESTING FACILITIES

Our Technical Services Deparment now offers chemical and mechanical testing.

- Mechanical tests include: tension (longitudinal and transverse), compression/bend, hardness test and Charpy-V impact. Charpy-V notching for unbroached impact specimens also accepted.
- We do chemical analyses for low & high carbon steels, cast iron, stainless steels, low & high alloy steels, manganese steels, high speed & tool steels.
- Spark Emission Spectrometer deliver test results in seconds. We also analyze minerals and non-ferrous metals.
- Test results of ready-to-be-tested specimen/s accomplished within 48 hours. Test certificates made ready for release 24 hours upon receipt of full payment.

AT WIP, INC. FAST RELIABLE TESTS AT VERY COMPETITIVE TESTING FEES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

WELDING INDUSTRIES of the PHILIPPINES, INC.
ISO 9001 : 2000 Certified
111 Bmms Road, Caloocan City • Tel Nos. 362-7581 to 84 • Fax 362-8796



Total Wireless Solution

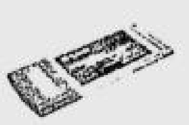
For wireless solution, look no further. D-Link offers an extensive range of wireless products that will serve the needs of your organisation. Remove your wires and surf without boundaries with D-Link's exciting range of wireless products.

Up to 88, 44 and 22 Megabits per second (Mbps)* | 256-bit WEP Encryption | Total Interoperability | Lifetime Warranty

* Using proprietary modulation technology with large frames to achieve throughput that's comparable to 88Mbps/44Mbps – codename "8X" or "4X".

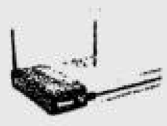
DWL-650+ [Type Approval No. ESD 0201498C]
44Mbps* / 22Mbps IEEE 802.11b+
Wireless PCMCIA Adapter
PhP 3,000

DWL-520+ [Type Approval No. ESD 0201497C]
44Mbps* / 22Mbps IEEE 802.11b+
Wireless PCI Adapter
PhP 3,000


DWL-G650+ [Type Approval No. ESD 0301714C]
88Mbps* /54Mbps IEEE 802.11g
Wireless PCMCIA Adapter
PhP 3,500

DWL-G520+ [Type Approval No. ESD 0301715C]
88Mbps* /54Mbps IEEE 802.11g
Wireless PCI Adapter
PhP 3,500

DI-624+ [Type Approval No. ESD 0301713C]
88Mbps* /54Mbps IEEE 802.11g Wireless Broadband Router with built-in 4-port 10/100Mbps Switch
PhP 6,800


DI-714P+ [Type Approval No. ESD 0301570C]
44Mbps* / 22Mbps IEEE 802.11b
Wireless Broadband Router with built-in 4-port 10/100Mbps Switch,
1 Printer Server Port
PhP 5,800

D-Link®
Building Networks For People
www.dlink.com.ph

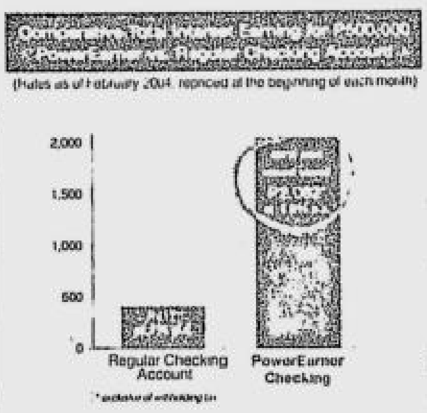
Authorised Distributors

Phil-Data Business Systems, Inc.
PHIL-DATA BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel (02)781-0581 to 84 / 811-2878 to 91
Fax (02)731-2008

UPLINK INFORMATION SYSTEM, INC.
UPLINK INFORMATION SYSTEM, INC.
Tel (02) 910-6460/63/67/68, 687-7221/3
Fax (02) 910-6462, 687-4037

BACOLOD CITY (+034)	
Improve Ent. Creative Com	433-9472/ 434-3249/5727
CEBU CITY (+032)	
CBX Corporation	231-3714/ 4369/4801
ILOILO CITY (+033)	
Delta Merchandizing	335-0658/ 336-3196/4509
LEGASPI CITY (+052)	
All Electronics	480-6011/6215/ 820-2922
MAKATI CITY(+02)	
Microphase Enterprises	750-0826-34/ 812-8814
Microshop	816-4378/ 892-4875
Prodata Systems	845-1880/ 884-1571/ 888-8556
Insight Systems Int'l	893-5796
Linknet Com	894-4593
Vilman Computer Systems	929-0401
Wispy Trading Computer	899-0351/53
MANDALUYONG CITY (+02)	
Brochiere Megamall	633-2172/3 / 634-1296/4801
PC Express	718-3939
MANILA (+02)	
Complink Computer	400-5632/ 3
Creative Technologies	400-4222
Masangkay Computer	233-1921/ 251-8558
SVC Enterprises	522-8603-06
Total Quality Machines	526-4503 local 21 & 22
NAGA CITY (+54)	
All Electronics	811-3624/25
OLONGAPO (+047)	
Microshop	252-3432
PASIG CITY (+02)	
Frog-E Solutions	634-4667/ 635-6215/ 637-8023
QUEZON CITY (+02)	
Bles Edward's Computer	434-4967/8
PC Corner/ Perfect Byte	723-1718
Silicon Valley	371-5614
The Web Diamond Computer System	725-0173/6
SAN JUAN (+02)	
Acenet MicroComputer	725-0762
Compucore Corporation	722-9783
Integrated Computer Systems	727-3801
SORSOGON CITY (+056)	
All Electronics	211-1515/ 421-5224

Standard Chartered
PowerEarner Checking



OPEN A
PowerEarner
CHECKING
ACCOUNT
NOW!

Call 878-2888
www.standardchartered.com/ph

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Deposits insured up to P100,000.00.
BancNet

REALESTATE

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

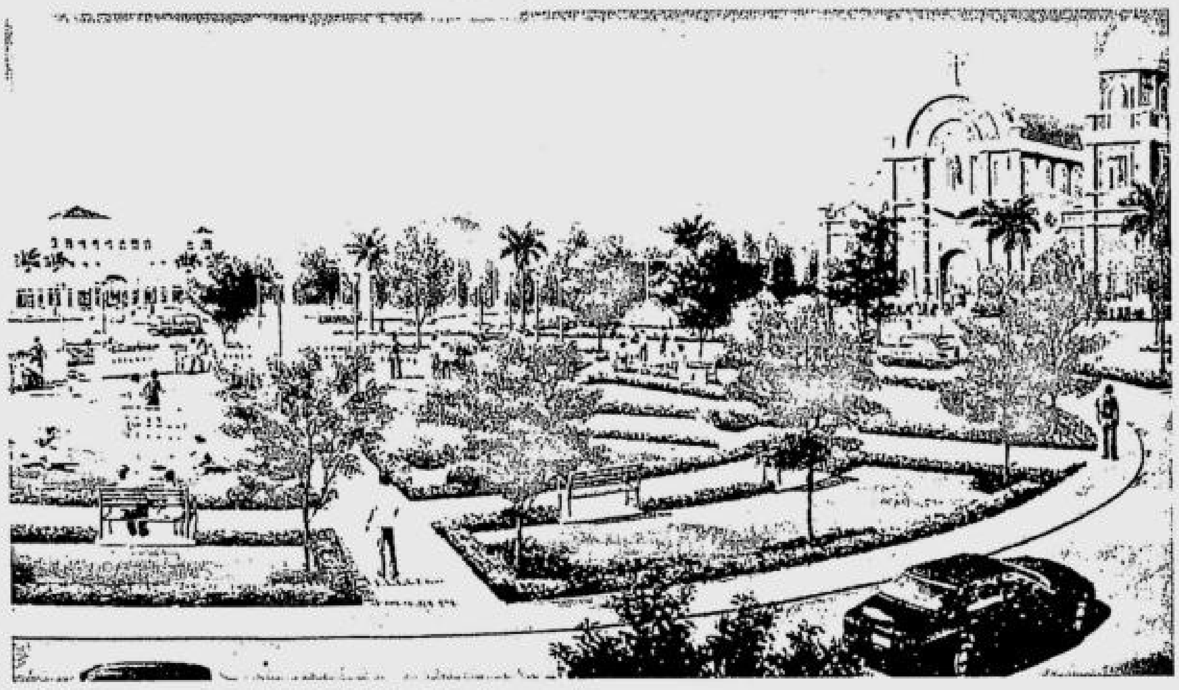
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Developer uses Calamba's historic lineage as come-on

By Tessa R. Salazar

VIGAN-STYLE cobblestones, calesas, wood houses with anahaw and old wooden capiz windows they are not. Nor are there guardia civil in period costumes. Well, at least, the town plaza will look like one.

A Filinvest Land Inc. property in Calamba—hometown of national hero Jose Rizal—has been transformed into a "period" satellite city of sorts with Ciudad de Calamba.


ARCHITECT'S perspective of Cuidad de Calamba town plaza

GARDEN shot of the Daphne house model

Historic township

What was once a sugarcane plantation has become a modern-day interpretation of a historic township. Seventy-seven hectares of the 350-hectare property have already been developed. "Pioneering settlers" are already enjoying the new community.

Apart from the blast-from-the-past town plaza, all else will be right-here-right-now, as modern themes will be applied in the residential, educational and commercial sectors.

Ciudad de Calamba, Filinvest stresses, will be a mixture of all the elements of a satellite city—a self-contained community conducive to business and family living with four villages and the community's technopark components with ready-built factories.

Central area

Fil-Hispanic architecture will be utilized in the Ciudad de Calamba town plaza—the central area that will feature the old Spanish town concept. The town plaza, true to its name, will be the "nerve center" of the community where the ecology park, the church, school, hospital, market and business centers will stand. A touch of the design trends of centuries past will remind people visiting the Ciudad of the Fil-Hispanic Jose Rizal era.

The community layout, says its developer, was designed to be orderly and logical with both pedestrian and vehicular traffic to be as free-flowing as possible. Ciudad de Calamba is elevated and overlooks Laguna de Bay.

The natural coolness characteristic of provincial climates is due, in part to the location as well as the added trees planted by the developer. The entire development will unify a new concept for a heritage-rich Calamba. This rich heritage and tradition, developers say, will be evident in the central plaza. Varying modern themes will define the residential and the industrial sectors.

Ciudad de Calamba is about eight kilometers from the Rizal Shrine. The entire Ciudad is four km long. The four-lane highway being built from Tagaytay to the Ciudad is eight kilometers long and 32 meters wide.

4 villages

Ciudad de Calamba's four villages—Vista Hills 1 (with only six units left), Vista Hills 2 (newly opened), Punta Altezza (30 units left) and the Montebello (newly opened)—will have a modern theme. Each of the villages would have its own clubhouse, swimming pool, children's playground, basketball court and landscaped parks, perimeter fence, gate, guardhouse, power and water distribution systems.

Vista Hills 1 and 2 will have Spanish Mediterranean influences, while Punta Altezza will have Roman inspired lines. The Montebello will be influenced by Asian contemporary styles, with elements of Balinese, Javanese, Thai Baan and traditional Malay (similar to the *bahay kubo* and *bahay na bato*).

Balikbayans or Laguna residents who want to upgrade to Ciudad living will have the option to live in a 180-sq-m typical lot cut with the Montebello (6.6 hectares, 202 households), 120-sq-m lot cut with Vista Hills 1 (5.2 hectares, 212 households), or 120-sqm with Punta Altezza (8.5 hectares, 346 households) that offers two-bedroom bungalow Redwood units and two-story Banyan units.

> A touch of the design trends of centuries past will remind people visiting the Ciudad of the Fil-Hispanic Jose Rizal era

Molave units and three-bedroom Cherry units are offered in Vista Hills 2 (3.6 hectares, 160 households, 120-sq-m lot cuts). The lot cuts will come with an option for a roof deck for recreational venue (the concept of which, Filinvest claims, it pioneered).

Rizal's descendants

To accentuate the historical appeal of the modern satellite city, Filinvest Land formally launched Ciudad de Calamba in historic Intramuros on March 5. What's more, the descendants of Jose Rizal were the honored guests. Paciano, Rizal's brother, was represented by Marlene Jacinto (whose father is a direct descendant of Paciano) and Ester Azurin (whose husband is from Paciano's lineage).

Tweetums Gonzalez, a descendant of Jose Rizal's sister Maria, and Manny Herbosa, president of the Jose Rizal Foundation, showed up. Other guests who claimed to trace their roots in Calamba, Laguna, showed up to reinforce the "historical" event. Early settlers of the themed villages also graced the launch. More than 50 percent of the buyers were from Calamba.

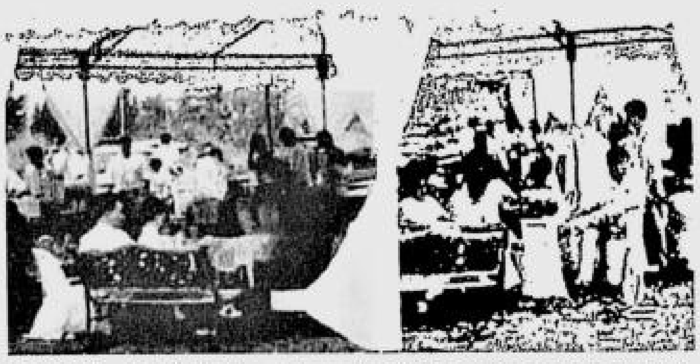
"It will be good to explore the Fil-Hispanic era, and Calamba would be the perfect place with its rich history. The township will be Fil-Hispanic while the residential components would have individual themes with varied architectural influences," said Karen Nell L. Paruñgo, business development officer for Ciudad de Calamba's residential projects.

The residential component costs an average of P5,500 per sq m. As such, the estimated purchase of a 120-sq-m lot would be P600,000. The estimated house and lot prices range from P1.5 million (basic) to P4 million (high end). Infrastructure for basic utilities (electricity, centralized water system with underground wells and overhead water tanks) is already in place.

"Three hundred fifty hectares is a big development, and we are only in Phase 1, which is 77 hectares," observed Arnold P. Canaria, project group head, Ciudad de Calamba.

Phase 1 is further divided into five separate projects: the four residential subdivisions and the technology park. The industrial zone, Filinvest discloses, is already functional with locators already settled. These locators are the Philippine Dong Yun Making Plate from mainland China (250 employees), 3M Plastics Technologies, Northeast Precision Inc., Mechanical Dynamics and Quality Packaging. The utilities and infrastructure for locator occupancy and operations are readily provided.

The grand open house day at Ciudad de Calamba is March 28.


GUESTS and their kids busy themselves with painting ceramic teacups.

Hillside tea party

POSTCARD-PRETTY views and serene landscapes greeted guests and visitors at Ayala Hillside Estates' recent open house, Capitol Hills, Quezon City. Many of them were naturally curious about the Ayala Land development which has been so warmly received by the market. Its first two phases sold quickly and the third phase is nearly 75 percent sold despite the hefty asking prices at Ayala Hillside Estates.

Guests at the event sponsored by Ayala Land Inc. were particularly pleased at the proximity of the 23-hectare subdivision to the country's finest universities and the activity hub of Katipunan Avenue.

Painting ceramic teacups

As they took note of the development's many features guests and their children were invited to try their hand at painting ceramic teacups. As they took in the views, clients were served an assortment of teas and little sandwiches. For many, wielding a paintbrush was an uncommon activity but this did not stop them from creating their own personalized teacups.

Guests and lot owners alike unleashed their artistry while envisioning the Ayala Hillside community. Carved out from the original Capitol Hills Golf Course, the project was designed for homeowners to enjoy the fairway and lakeside views of Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club's newly constructed precision golf course as well as of the mountains of Montalban and the views overlooking Marikina Valley.

Road network, structures

Market excitement over the property has been heightened by the fact that much of Ayala Hillsides' road network and other structures have been completed. In addition, 18 holes of the golf course will soon open feature landscaped vistas and seemingly endless rolling terrain. Unlike other subdivisions, Ayala Hillside Estates boasts of mature trees with full crowns that heighten the ambience of the neighborhood.

Guests invited to the event by the able brokers of Ayala Land Sales Inc. and lot owners thoroughly enjoyed the day. Residents from a nearby community also came. Everyone who dropped by enjoyed strolling through the development which remains one of the most scenic, not to mention exclusive spots, in Northern Metro Manila. It was definitely an idyllic day at an idyllic community.

A CHILD is engrossed in teacup painting.

When you like the land but not the house

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

IN SEARCHING for the perfect home, remember that two critical elements should be present—the right location and the right house. It can be really difficult to search for one and it requires many weekends of searching, a lot of time and most importantly, a lot of patience. One has to physically visit a place to be able to experience the feeling of living in a specific area.

In home buying, choosing the right location is usually the first step and as soon as you are decided on one, you now proceed with the next level of selecting what type of home to buy. This can be a single detached dwelling, a town home or a condominium unit.

There are four possible combinations of location quality and house quality you should be aware of. During your house hunting process, knowing which situation you are in will be very helpful for you in selecting the site for your home.

Bad house in good site

The bad house might turn one off but the property might just be a "diamond in the rough." As long as the location is acceptable and satisfactory to you, then a bad house can still be considered. A bad house description can be subjective and you might just need a few repairs to convert a bad house into a good one. In assessing a "bad house" always ask two important questions:

- **Is the defect curable?**—There are defects in a house that can be repaired and there are some that are uneconomical to do so. A worn-out rain gutter, faded paint on a wall, a leaking faucet and dried plants in the garden—all of these can be repaired or redone and the house will look and feel new again. On the other hand, if you want a four-car garage when there is only one, a bath in every room when there is only one on the first floor, then curing the defect may mean that you may have to demolish the house and start anew.
- **How much will it cost?**—There is no house defect that cannot be repaired at all. The only problem is that repairing the house may cost you more than tearing the house down and making a new one. If the cost of repair is too high, buying the home may not be viable at all. In buying a used home, never guess the amount of repair costs and it is always best to ask for a detailed estimate of repair from a professional architect or engineer.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A bad location for one might be a good location for another and it is really based on the needs and wants of the end user. Unless you are the speculative type, a bad location may be difficult to turn around. There are however real estate investors who invest on currently undesirable locations hoping that the surrounding infrastructure in the area will improve. The only problem with this line of thinking is that one can never be sure when the improvement will take place.

If the house you are planning to buy is in a bad location (based on your own definition), it may be a better idea to stay away from this type of investment.

Forget it! Even if the property is being sold for a song, you may still end up losing money in the end.

In this situation, you have to deal with two defects. It is better to delay your purchase until you can find the home that you and your family will be comfortable living in.

Good house on good site

This is where all buyers would want to be. Finding a good house in a good location may take you several months (even years) but the effort will surely be worth it.

A good house means that it is well built at a reasonable price and with living spaces that fit your specific needs and lifestyle. It has all of the amenities that are important to you and you can easily imagine yourself living in the house.

A good location is one that is safe, convenient, accessible and, most of all, one with a community where you can enjoy life to the fullest. Remember that this community is where you will go home to every day and it better be a good one.

60-hectare property being developed in Batangas

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BATANGAS is a hotbed of real estate development, but most of the projects have been concentrated on the western side of province that covers Nasugbu and Taal, leaving the other towns behind in the race for economic development.

Crisanto S. Gualberto II strives to correct the imbalance by developing a 60-hectare property in his hometown Rosario, Batangas into a mixed-use residential and commercial establishment called Residencias at Pueblo Niño.

This project comes at the heels of similar projects in nearby San Juan, Batangas, called Costa de Madera, in joint venture with the Metro Pacific group and a resort development dubbed Porto Gualberto.

Gualberto said he decided to launch a similar project in his hometown because of his lifelong dream to help his province. He said that hopefully, the project would give rise to jobs for his town mates and spur economic growth.

"It is my way of giving back to my town mates. The people there said that if I could do a project in another town, I could do the same in Rosario," he said.

The master plan for Residencias at Pueblo Niño calls for the construction of an exclusive clubhouse, nature parks, basketball court and ponds. It will also host a shopping center, transport terminal, cinemas, gasoline station and a restaurant row.

The homes are designed along Spanish-Moroccan themes. Lots range from 100 to 200 square meters, while house floor areas range from 48 to 80 square meters to leave enough room for greenery.

There are lot-only packages for those who plan to build their homes themselves, although the design must conform to the design specifications of the developer.

Gualberto said he purposely allotted a large portion of the entire property for the nature parks, fountains and ponds because he believes in maintaining a provincial feel to the property, a welcome respite to the rigors of urban life.

"Profit is not really our main objective here. I wanted to give back and to have a development I could be really proud of," he said.

It's green light for Residences' first tower

By Charles E. Buban

IS it much better to have the Ayala Center affixed to your home address?

"This will be the first time a residential property of Ayala Land Inc. will be bearing the prestigious Ayala Center address considering The Residences at Greenbelt is part of Makati's premier shopping and dining mecca," said Ayala Land Sales Inc. (Alsi) general manager David Rafael.

Indeed living at The Residences brings so many unique advantages that Alsi is having a grand time selling the few remaining units of the luxury condominium complex's first (total of three) to be constructed high rise, the 48-story Laguna Tower.

In fact, despite the prevailing situation in the market, Alsi has already sold 70 percent of Laguna Tower's 249 residential units.

SEEING the whole picture, prospective buyers get The Residences at Greenbelt's advantageous location.

Struck a chord

"We have struck a chord with buyers who want luxury, elegance and unique lifestyle in one residential package," said Rafael.

Billed as the "must-have" investment for the person who has everything, The Residences is designed to provide incredible ease of access to variety of needs.

> Billed as the 'must-have' investment for the person who has everything, The Residences is designed to provide incredible ease of access to variety of needs

Bounded by Esperanza Drive, Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road) and Greenbelt Drive, the Laguna Tower has the unique pleasure of being located next to the vibrant, modern and lively culture that the redeveloped Greenbelt Commercial Complex provides.

"You're just next to the best cinemas in the city, posh restaurants and cafés and exclusive brand outlets and many more," described Rafael.

Rest and recreation options

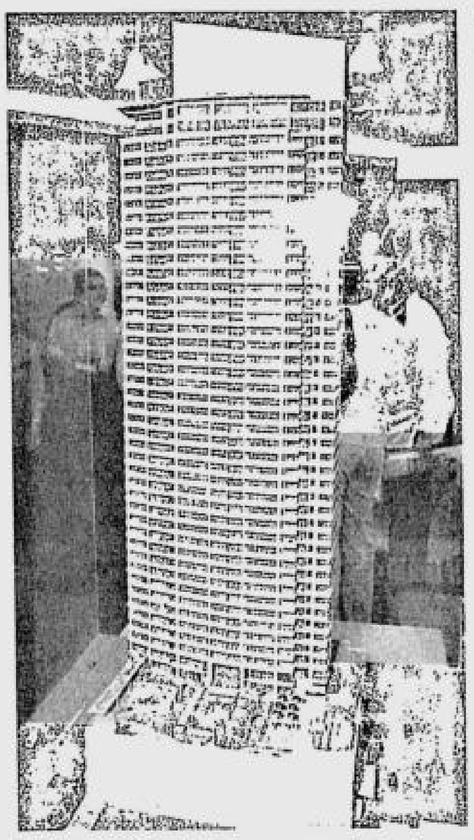
But even at The Residences, one will never have to look far for maximum rest and recreation options.

As if the diverse delights of Greenbelt Commercial Center aren't enough, Ayala Land has the entire sports and recreational hub located right within the condominium complex itself.

Located on the podium floor, it offers an impressive array of amenities for the residents' exclusive enjoyment: a grand social hall, fully equipped gym, adult swimming pool and a kiddie pool, jogging paths, meditation garden, lush greenery, a pond and various water features that will lend a tranquil backdrop to a resident's precious moment of relaxation.

Unit features

Each Laguna Tower unit features complete kitchen with cabinets for all units; two telephone lines per unit and telephone outlets at all bedrooms, kitchen, living/dining; audio-video guest annunciator; and CATV for all bedrooms and living room.



LAGUNA Tower will be the first of The Residences at Greenbelt to rise in the Greenbelt commercial complex area.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Other features are provision for storage type water heater; ducted exhaust system for all bathrooms and kitchens; individual metering for water and electricity; provision for washer/dryer connections for all units; walk-in closet for master's bedrooms; bath tub for master's toilet and bath; shower enclosure for master's toilet and bath for 3 bedroom units; utility/maid's area with closet and toilet and bath; and insect screen for operable windows.

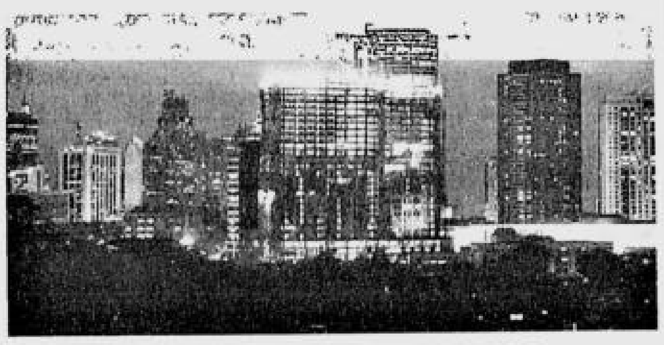
Buyer's option

To fully realize the potential of these features, buyers of the Laguna Suites will now have the option of having for free either a state-of-the-art kitchen showcase, or an exquisitely designed master bathroom if they buy until the end of this month.

The kitchen showcase fits the Laguna Suites' large kitchens with professional-quality appliances: a built-in hob, range oven and range hood from German appliance leader Miele, and Fisher & Paykel refrigerator from the respected New Zealand brand.

The designer bathroom, on the other hand, fulfills the desires of the modern lifestyle in which the bathroom becomes a place of beauty, relaxation and pleasure, with fixtures and finishes from the finest European brands Duravit, Hansgrohe and Hoesch—featuring the legendary designs of Philippe Starck.

"Or they may avail of our Green Circle payment option (effective this month only), a 7 percent discount payable in 10 equal monthly payment or a special 4-year balloon scheme," Rafael added



I FLOOR EVERY 6 DAYS AT MANANSALA
Now on the 28th floor of its construction, Rockwell Land's Residential Towers is making good time with a speedy floor-to-floor concreting cycle of five to six days. Moving ahead of schedule, the twin towers' targeted turnover date of December 2005, is now targeted for completion two to three months earlier. Named after the famed Filipino national artist Vicente Manansala, Rockwell's posh residential development consists of two towering structures of 38 and 41 floors.

BCDA turns over Lot B to Ayala Land

PROPERTY and real estate conglomerate Ayala Land Inc. and the Bases Conversion Development Authority recently signed the Lot B turnover agreement at the Oakwood Premier. This concludes the early stages of the project, which started with the acquisition of the land in 2002.

The formal turnover of 12-hectare gross lot area in Bonifacio City to ALI (Lot B) signifies the start of one of the highly anticipated real estate projects in the country.

Signatories were ALI senior vice presidents Angela dV. LAcson and Tristan B. Dela Rosa and BCDA chair Rufo Colayco. Also present during the event were lawyer Felipe Velasco of Development Bank of the Philippines-Trust and BCDA repesentatives Aileen Zosa, Hedda Rulona and Dean Santiago.

Instead of an overly dense development of concrete and steel, ALI will develop Lot B into a fully integrated residential haven where 65 percent of open space is reserved for greenery and adequate landscaping. A pleasant blend of East and West, the project is built on a master plan that is European, imbibing the culture's penchant for low density, low- to mid-rise structures and its respect for human spaces. At the same time it has building designs, unit layouts and interiors that serve the Filipino's temper, environment, culture lifestyle and needs.

The project is expected to provide the conveniences of city living while giving residents an opportunity to enjoy nature's myriad blessings. Its strategic location will substantially cut down hours spent on the road.

Termite protection every home needs

WHAT you don't know about termites may not hurt you. Well, maybe not until you have experienced how much damage these voracious little creatures can do to your home.

Termite infestation is a recurring problem to most homeowners. Getting rid of termites for good is very difficult especially if the home is found to be a suitable place for them to thrive.

Like thieves in the night, these so called social insects start a colony that is likely to crawl their way into our lives by digging underground or mud tunnels that eventually lead to hollowness and trickles of grooves in wooden structures throughout the house.

But as homeowners become more wary about these creatures becoming an absolute nuisance, the need to completely eliminate termite attack is ever increasing. Conventional methods of control like liquid termiticides were found to only temporarily contain them but will not eliminate their colony. Thus, creating a vicious cycle of pest control that leads to prolonged inconvenience for homeowners until Sentricon Colony Elimination System introduced a new standard for protecting property from subterranean termites.

Effective protection

The highly efficient Sentricon Colony Elimination System was developed to provide protection through innovative baiting system that serves as security system and constant defense against annoying termites.

Unlike liquid termite treatment, Sentricon's Colony Elimination works by attacking and effectively eliminating colonies while carefully monitoring future invasions. Sentricon is also known to be nonintrusive since all work can be done without having to breach the privacy of one's home or unnecessary drilling on floors or foundation as well as spoil landscapes or garden. The kind of protection the Sentricon Colony Elimination System provides is proven lasting.

Highest standard of safety

For most homeowners, pest control is about liquid sprays and lingering fetid smell of chemicals. The elderly, children and even pets can get exposed to the harmful effects of liquid chemicals once the solution is pumped and sprayed all over one's home. With the Sentricon System's long-term termite solution, the environment gets a reprieve from the pesticide fumes because baits are totally odorless and their effect is directed only to the target insect—termites! What's more, Sentricon uses only a few grams of it's active ingredient compared to basic liquid treatments where gallons of chemicals are necessary.

Parents need not worry about accidents or untoward incidents when their children and pets are around because the bait commonly called Recruit II, used in Sentricon is nontoxic and stations are placed in discreet locations complete with locking cap.

They say home is where the heart is. So why not make it the safest, most comfortable and secure place there is by keeping it termite free with Sentricon Colony Elimination System.

To know more about the Sentricon Colony Elimination System, call 819-1986 and 815-9273 or visit www.sentricon.com.

China Airlines now in 1322 Golden Empire Tower

MOLDEX Realty Marketing Inc. recently welcomed China Airlines to the growing roster of tenants of 1322 Golden Empire Tower during the contract-signing ceremonies at the Fishing Village Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard.

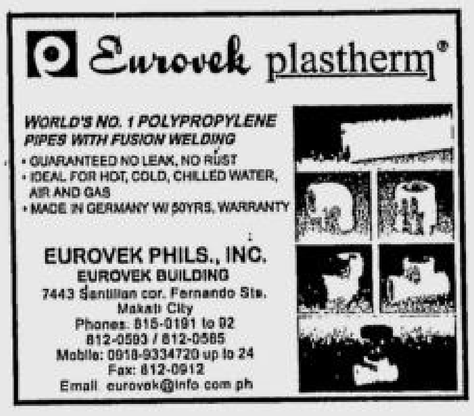
The event was attended by senior officers and representatives of the Moldex Group of Companies, China Airlines and New Dynasty Inc.

China Airlines joined a group of national carriers which have chosen to lease space in 1322 to take advantage of its picturesque view of the world-famous Manila Bay sunset.

The 57-story 1322 Golden Empire Tower is the tallest residential condominium in the Philippines and the most exclusive address on Roxas Boulevard. It is the flagship project of Moldex Land Inc.

The contract was signed by MGOC chair Jacinto Uy and China Airlines district manager Richard Liu.

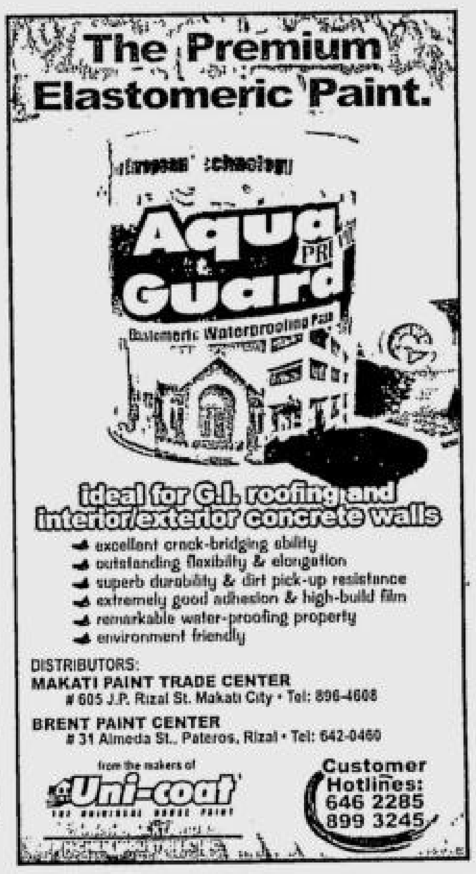
Also present during the contract signing are MGOC president Roy Joseph Vinuya, NDI chair Domingo Lee, Michael O. Uy, Moldex Realty Inc. president Rey D. Ignacio, NDI sales manager Len Rivera, Diana Chu, China Airlines secretary to the district manager, NDI consultant Richard Yu, NDI executive vice president and GM Jerry Limpe, MRMI president Luis E. Icasiano and Imelda T. Uy.



Eurovek plastherm®
WORLD'S NO. 1 POLYPROPYLENE PIPES WITH FUSION WELDING
- GUARANTEED NO LEAK, NO RUST
- IDEAL FOR HOT, COLD, CHILLED WATER, AIR AND GAS
- MADE IN GERMANY W/ 50YRS. WARRANTY

EUROVEK PHILS., INC.
EUROVEK BUILDING
7443 Santillan cor. Fernando Sts.
Makati City
Phones: 815-0191 to 92
812-0593 / 812-0585
Mobile: 0918-9334720 up to 24
Fax: 812-0912
Email eurovek@info.com.ph

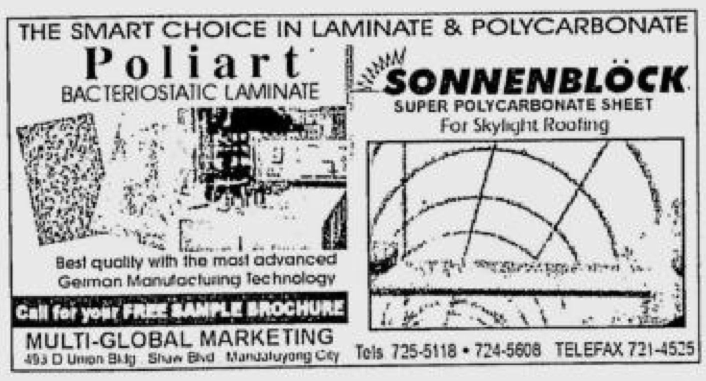
Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem
FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements
SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures
FLEXROOF
Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings
From the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-0531 to 32 • 252-0549 to 51 • 252-0559 Fax: 252-0550
Website: www.campbridge.com
Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave. Dagupan Tel. No. (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#82 Plaridel St. Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 254-1511 Fax No. (032) 52428
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE



The Premium Elastomeric Paint.
Aqua Guard
ideal for G.I. roofing and interior/exterior concrete walls
- excellent crack-bridging ability
- outstanding flexibility & elongation
- superb durability & dirt pick-up resistance
- extremely good adhesion & high-build film
- remarkable water-proofing property
- environment friendly

DISTRIBUTORS:
MAKATI PAINT TRADE CENTER
605 J.P. Rizal St. Makati City • Tel: 896-4608
BRENT PAINT CENTER
31 Almeda St., Pateros, Rizal • Tel: 642-0460
from the makers of Uni-coat
Customer Hotlines:
646 2285
899 3245

PREMIUM GRADE!
PHENOLIC PLYWOOD
* REUSABLE *
CONCRETE FORMS
12mm x 4ft x 8ft
18mm x 4ft x 8ft
GUARANTEED!
PRICE
QUALITY
IRWIN LUMBER
8286 Sucat Rd. Pque.
Tel.828-9458 • 828-3760



THE SMART CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE
Poliart
BACTERIOSTATIC LAMINATE
Best quality with the most advanced German Manufacturing Technology
Call for your FREE SAMPLE BROCHURE
SONNENBLÖCK
SUPER POLYCARBONATE SHEET
For Skylight Roofing
MULTI-GLOBAL MARKETING
493 D Union Bldg. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City
Tels. 725-5118 • 724-5608 TELEFAX 721-4525

UNEQUALLED PERFORMANCE
macnell
architectural paints
ACRE COAT
Coats like no other, for that 100% waterproof finish. The perfect blend of strength and aesthetics.
MACNELL ELASTOMERIC
A new generation of waterproofing technology that provides protection from destructive effects of water seepage.
ACRYL MEL
Provides excellent hiding power and easy brushing.
ACRE CAST
Specially formulated to provide ultimate surface protection. Washable texture.
ACRE LAX
Combines the advantage of acrylic latex and emulsion latex.
Eliminates Concrete Seepage
100% Waterproof
Manufactured by
MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
51 JOY CORNER HARMONY STS., GRACE VILLAGE,
BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TELS.: 241-3353 • 364-5731 • 364-4733
241-3159 • 364-7135 • 364-6345

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8970808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Summer Boys

(02)8347357 P250 Massage Akhin Thai = Cbu.Bgo & Mla

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

ASK ART MALE MASSEURS (0920)8329840

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE 11A Kamias QC 4350978

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

MALE MASSEURS 8537898 (0921)2520919

Masseur Albert, Diana 24Hrs 8327327

MSG M/F 0919-2714842 ANJO

THAI Mage Lic 0921-2020428

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09194828467

Jason 3rd Massage 4372542

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LANGUAGES P1,950/8944311

LIGHT TUTORIAL 5301315

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAID YAYA 7284093

GOOD MAID YAYA INT COOK BOY DRIVER 7572089/7284093

A'A MAIDS W/ NBI 4386920

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Best Maid Yaya Boy 9957034

Cook, Yaya,H'girl 8705730

GOOD CARING MAIDS 535-93-17 • 0927-480-6767

GOOD MAID YAYA 9201019

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAIDS'ALABANG 8420119 Q.City 9268984/4331431

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

RELIABLE MAIDS, 5628581

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

P600/TRIP 740-5628

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

MANDALUYONG

★Whse w/Offs Bldg 5346610 ★

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Nice 2-storey 4BR w/T&B San Miguel Village, Makati BEST BUY! DBO •896-3927•

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.280M 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
ASTORIA PLAZA
RESIDENTIAL UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE:
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom
IN-HOUSE FINANCING
UP TO 5 YEARS TO PAY
AT 0% INTEREST
AND BANK FINANCING
UP TO 10 YEARS
AT LOW INTEREST
#15 Escriva Drive, Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel. 910-0372
687-2363 / 631-3929

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

SN ANDRES nr A. FRANCISCO 3stry/5br/5 1/2T&B/4cargarage/mini gym recreation hall/music rm/library /maid's rm FA396m^{2}P11.5M 8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

MARCELO GREEN
Hse & Lot Rush Priced 2 Sell LA350m^2 corner 2sty 5BR 4TB DBO 6471240 0917-5312376

QUEZON CITY

BLUE RIDGE, Q.C.
400m^2 Bung.3BR/2TB Cute P10M 200m^2 2-Sty+Attic 3BR/2TB P7M 6471240 4395075 09175312376

NR AYALA HTS LA488 5BR US Style P13M net 9288846

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview Lipat Agad/Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-2302120

QC 400m^2 6BR 0917-5376853

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

BONI RIDGE
Christine Tan • 0922-8043079 Ayala Land Accredited Broker

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.440M 8903461 loc 34

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

LOT

★SUBIC 48has@200/m^2 Direct Buyer Only 0920-9112910

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m^2@P4,000 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

QUEZON CITY

★AYALA HILLS★
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS
MRS. GASTON 931-2938/48
AYALA LAND BROKER

RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antipolo 3749m^2 good4gas station 09178102903

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Cor 761m^{2}Lot Next to Main Rd w/ 1000m^2 Bldg Good 4 Clinic, Restaurant, School, Offices. 5mins to SM P12M Fixed Gulang' Lucena City 0919-6401704

PROVINCIAL

★TAGAYTAY COLDEST ★
Along H-way low dp/mo. 240m^2-up nr Taal Vista-Tolle 660-9372

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

MANDALA
Residential Farm Lots nr QC overlooking MM good investment high ROI pre selling price 727-6871 • 0916-2212781

RESORT

Golf & Country Club Share Fairways & Blue Water Boracay 715-8998

PRIVATE BEACH FRONT HOME FURNISHED, P4.5M.
New U.S. design clear tile 3br bungalow w/garage. U.S. appliances, 110 & 220, 4 aircons, 5 water heaters, dishwasher, microwave, grill, electric stove, washer & dryer. Quality tile, rugs, antiques, books, paintings, shipped from U.S., city water, two wells. Lge screen tv, cable, landscaped, walled, lge fenced land in rear, fruit trees, beach hut, peaceful, sunset blvd, Dapitan City, close to Dakak Resort, Supercat, Dipolog Airport. Owner transferred. Price firm. Direct Buyers Only. 0917-7489573 website: http://home.ripway.com/2004-2/78433/

WANTED TO BUY

CAP, TPG EDUC PLAN 2528373

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PASAY

Comml Bldg with Bar kitchen 2TB P38T/mo at G/F 1722-24 FB Harrison St near Harrison Plaza and Central Bank Infront Longwood Apartelle 9327538 /39; 9316765; 9324398; 4363417

QUEZON CITY

4BR P6T nr Minda Ave 9299835

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Furn 1BR SthStar 844-7524

MANILA

Ocean Tower 3BR 3TB 140sqm P45T/month 09175292250

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Unfurn 3BR3TB Md P25,T8903104

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 Std new 9124428

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCIER 0919-3353989

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOT FOR LEASE

LOT for lease 6462659 / 0920-9216673 Mars

FOR LEASE

1. OFFICE SPACES
egaspi/Salcedo Vill., Makati
2. STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
as Piñas / Cavite / Binondo/ andaluyong City
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
auan, Batangas
4. 3BR CONDO
ay Gardens
ALL RENTAL – NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 95
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Ortigas Ctr 1BR Condo 4121825

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

STAREX 1999 P550T 9seater White Diesel 1st Owned 8437633•8437637•8437539 0917-8468227 Carol or Luz

MITSUBISHI

97Lancer A/T GLXi Green 74K Km 235T 0920-9090861

OTHER CAR BRANDS

95'HONDA ESI SPORTY TYPE 270 NEG. CALL JOEL 578-4677

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Town-Hi Ace Delica Space Gear Elf Canter etc T-In OK 09178342020 / 9120647

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

ABC CARS / VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 * 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2278 * 426-4084
MARIKINA BR. 998-8210

Comp Car 4 Hire HONDA CRV 787-8870 0918-2614536 Jim

HI ACE VAN RENT 7806589

MB HIACE URVAN 8276605

STAREX 7318549

Toyco Rent A Car-Cars Vans Coaster (02)800-6595

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN3743803

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

OLYMPIC BADMINTON CLUB

The largest and most comprehensive badminton facility in South East Asia is currently inviting applicants for the following positions:

RECEPTIONIST

- Female at least 22-30 years old.
- Experience with sales and client relations.
- Athletic, pleasing personality and appearance.
- Computer literate.
- Excellent communication skills in English and Tagalog.

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT

- Female, with previous experience inthe service industry.
- Pleasing personality and appearance.
- Courteous, efficient and honest.

Olympic Badminton Club
Warehouse 5. 108 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue,
Brgy. Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 6320797/6327653 or
9319376 look for Ms. Maldy
• Email: obc@skyinet.net

BRAND MANAGER

- Male/Female (with pleasing personality and not more than 30 years old)
- With at least 1 year experience in Marketing
- Computer Literate

FEDERATED DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
FDI Bldg., Queensway Ave., cor. Venecia de Leon St.,
Ibayo, Parañaque City
Tel. No. 851-7020 to 24
Look for Happy Vizcarra

Free Seminar

"Discover the Natural & Practical Approach to Prevent & Treat Chronic Illnesses & Diseases"
(heart disease, hypertension, arthritis, diabetes, asthma, cancer..)
To be conducted by **Dr. Sonny A. Viloria**, a medical doctor and natural therapy practitioner trained from abroad & a regular guest, health lecturer on selected radio programs.
Text 0920 654 0954 or 0919 643 1613 your full name & address to register & ensure a seat. Free booklets for 1st 20 attendees on **"How To Make A Fortune Without Winning The Lotto"**.
Income opportunity presentation to follow.
March 11, 2004 (Thurs), 1:30 p.m. at
Totalle Wellness & Fitness Center,
Phil. Women's University, Nakpil St.,
between Taft Ave. & L. Guinto St., Manila
Text to pre-register for Mar. 18 free seminar, 5:30 p.m., Makati City.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

AUDIO/ VIDEO

Aowa Home&Ent Sys Cmplete Bnew 0917-8214936

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 780-0106

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

Brand New Circuit Braker 1200 Amphers G.E. 0917-8236194

PETS

Belg.Malinois 09175273339

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

BILLIARDS

23T New Compt SR Impld 7767507

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
PawnTickets, Loans 5%
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Facial Clinic P250000 incl rights & equipt. Contact 829-9765/0917-4035918 Look for Evelyn

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT /CALL09275282875 Kristine

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

Singapore Bizmen Looking for Crazy Entrepreneurs who want to wear tailor made clothes & drive fancy sports cars. Will train. Call 0927-5680230

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Own your Int'l Biz with high global profits, proven success. Gateway to USA, introduced by Singapore MNC. STEVEN 09163963096, www.buildworldbiz.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Work Frm Home 0917-8331778 • 927-7320

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MST B EMPLOYD 984-2865

MICHAELMAR PHILS., INC.

WANTED

(FOR IMMEDIATE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT)

FLEET MANAGER

(SALARY: US$ 2,500.00/MONTH)

- Male (not more than 50 years old)
- Licensed Master Mariner
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- With at least five (5) years minimum shipboard experience as a senior officer (Management Level) onboard worldwide-route vessels (preferably tankers)

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN BRING THEIR PERTINENT DOCUMENTS AND APPLY PERSONALLY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AT:

MICHAELMAR PHILS., INC.
SUITE 1201-A ERMITA CENTER BLDG., 1350 ROXAS BLVD., MANILA
TEL. NOS. 536-94-30 / 536-37-08 / 536-37-06 / 523-55-60 / 526-49-95
POEA LIC. OS-003 SB010698 NL
"previous applicants need not apply"

MICHAELMAR PHILS., INC.

WANTED

(FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT)
(Principal's Accreditation Cert. No. 25361-3)

FOR CRUDE AND PRODUCT TANKERS

MASTERS (US$ 5,000.00/MONTH)
PLUS:
- US$ 2,000.00 STAND-BY PAY/MO. FOR 3 MONTHS AND US$ 2,100.00 GOOD PERFORMANCE BONUS

CHIEF ENGINEERS (US$ 4,600.00/MONTH)
PLUS:
- US$ 1,900.00 STAND-BY PAY/MO. FOR 3 MONTHS AND US$ 2,000.00 GOOD PERFORMANCE BONUS

IN ADDITION TO THE VERY COMPETITIVE WAGES, WE OFFER THESE FRINGE BENEFITS AS FOLLOWS:
- Dollar Allotments
- Early/Up-to-Date Allotments
- Company-sponsored training
- Assured continuous marine personnel welfare

"WE ARE AN ISO 2000:9001 CERTIFIED COMPANY THAT CAN PROVIDE YOU THESE GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS!!!"

BRING YOUR VALID DOCUMENTS AND ALL STCW '95 CERTIFICATES PERSONALLY AT:

MICHAELMAR PHILS., INC.
SUITE 1201-A ERMITA CENTER BLDG., 1350 ROXAS BLVD., MANILA
TEL. NOS. 536-94-30 / 536-37-06
POEA LIC. 160-SB-122001-R
'This Ad is approved by POEA"
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS - NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Rush Good Maid NBI 4307061

Teacher Bsed w/ Govt Lic. 655-0609

MALE/FEMALE

Direct Hire Ofc Mrktng Staff 18 /45yo coll level/grad w/w/o exp start asap 4390226 Marlene

Job Hiring 09202125737

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

DH (CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM); COOK; BEAUTICIAN ALL AROUND RECEPTIONIST; MASON /CARPENTER; BUILDING PAINTER; A/V TECHNICIAN; DENTIST; NURSE; SECRETARY CALL US 5300159 / 5224435 LOOK PERLA OR JOEY

•Direct Hire Ofc Mktg Staff M/F 18-50 High Compensation Start ASAP Clarissa 4390585•

OFC MKTG AST 09203562010 IRA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 5899958 4043528 5212773

OFC MKTG STAFF Start Agad w/pay 7498760/4217569 7838739/09183076888Adad

Ofc/Mrktng Stf 09205673415

Looking for a career with unlimited income opportunities?

hingemedia, inc.

We are **Hinge Media Incorporated**, a dynamic publishing company seeking:

- **Hard-working, energetic and ambitious individuals willing to work full-time**
- **Outgoing personalities who like meeting and conversing with people**
- **Individuals desiring to earn at least P20,000 to P50,000 a month**

We offer the following opportunities:
- ✓ High commission
- ✓ Allowances
- ✓ Special incentives
- ✓ Quick promotion for excellent performance

If you share our entrepreneurial spirit, we invite you to attend our opportunity briefing at 10:00 a.m. on March 13, 2004, at Unit 1705 Cityland Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati. Bring an updated copy of your resumé with you.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6873354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

DEATH NOTICE

ANACORITA B. RICABORDA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 6, 2004 at the age of 63.

Her body lies in state at Chapel H, St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on March 10, 2004, 4:00 p.m. at Forest Park, Caloocan City.

GUILLERMA G. GALANG

June 25, 1922 - March 5, 2004

Former Executive Secretary of the Dean Institute of Medicine, F.E.U. NRMP

Joined her savior and friend Jesus at the age of 81.

Her bereaved children **Manuel, Amelia, Art**; daughters-in-law, brother-in-law and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will be flown back to Toronto, Ontario, Canada on March 10, 2004.

BUENAVENTURA "Berty" SANGUYO, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 5, 2004 at the age of 64.

His loving wife **Arlene**; children **Linbert & Cheryl, Wewey** and **Lexnie, Bong, Joy, Wendell, Ace, Princess & Ronald, Rizza, BJ, Edward, Bogart, Mac-mac, Nelia**; grandchildren and other relatives and friends request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at 1035 St. Jude Street, Malinta Village, Valenzuela City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 14, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. at Ever Memorial Garden, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City, after the celebration of the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Malinta, Valenzuela City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

COL. BARTOLOME G. GACAD (Ret.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 5, 2004 at the age of 89.

His bereaved wife **Purificacion**; and children **Gerardo, Estefanio, Bart Jr., Adela, Marcelina, Antonio, Cecilio, Romeo**; sons/daughters-in-law **Lydia, Harriette, Letty, Roy, Ed, Menchie, Cecille & Nida**; grandchildren and great grandchild, brother & sister, nephews & nieces, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Loyola Guadalupe Chapel C, Makati City (6-10 March '04) then at St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. (11-12 March).

Interment will be on Saturday, March 13, 2004 after the 9.00 a.m. Mass at St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Aguinaldo, proceeding to Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

NAPOLEON CANLAS DE LEON

of Bamban, Tarlac and Caloocan City

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 6, 2004 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Juanita "NITS" de Leon**; children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at the Eternal Gardens, Caloocan City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

Our Dearly Beloved

CARLO MAGNO BELAMIDE MACATANGAY

Passed away at the Guam Memorial Hospital on March 1, 2004 at the age of 41.

His family, including mother **Amelita**, (deceased father **Pedro Macatangay Jr.**), brother **Romeo** and his wife **Felicitas**, sisters and brothers-in-law **Angeles & Jim Bantegui, Rosario** and **Ezekiel Ramos, Cecilia & John Avila**, nephews, nieces and other relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Chapels, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. Interment will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City, Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688, 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City. Tels. 416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City. Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City. Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City. Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex
Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291,
Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center,
Parañaque, Metro Manila
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613; 273-8922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960; 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026; 650-7426; Fax : 697-2764
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City. Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 427-8412; 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

CLASSIFIEDS

GIA
Thailand Campus
Learn about Gems & Jewelry
From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide
GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential
G.G. Program starts May 31, 2004
GIA Thailand Since 1993
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

ON-LINE AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of Batangas Cogen Corporation

PRELIMINARY NOTICE - ONLINE AUCTION SALE

CLOSING DATE: 7:00PM - WED. 31st MARCH & THU. 1st APRIL 2004

EXCELLENT NEW & UNUSED SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR COGEN POWER PLANT
LOCATED: BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES

ABSORPTION CHILLERS - (3) CENTURY 2 Stage Steam Absorption Chillers Model AR-W1500G1, 1250 USRT (minimum), Input Steam @ 9 Bar, Cooling Water 32°C/37.4°C
MECHANICAL CHILLERS - (2) CENTURY Centrifugal Type Mechanical Chillers Model TR-G660C1, 600 USRT, Power Source 6.6KV/3 Phase 60Hz Cooling Water 32°C/37.4°C
BOILER - KANGWON 35,000 Kg/Hr @ 12 Bar Working Pressure 200°C Temperature, Two Drum Forced Draft, Dual Firing, Outdoor Type, Economizer & Forced Draft Fan
ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMERS - (2) DAIHEN Main Transformer 32.0 MVA & 19.0 MVA 115/13.8 KV, 3 Phase, 60 Hz, Step-up Transformer Outdoor; (2) DAIHEN Main Transformer 6.5 MVA 13.8/6.9 KV, 3 Phase 60 Hz, Step-down Transformer Outdoor; (1) DAIHEN Service Transformer 3.0 MVA 6.9 KV/480 V 3 Phase 60 Hz Outdoor; Surge Arrestors; 115KV Capacitive Volt Transformers; Current Transformers;
WATER PIPING - Large Qty Underground Water Piping & Fittings; 1200m HDPE Piping 700mm dia. Fusion Machine; Large Qty of Carbon Steel Pipes ASTM & Fittings; (27) Horizontal Centrifugal Water Pumps; Large Qty Gate Valves
AIR COMPRESSORS - (3) SHINIL 5nm³/min 8-Bar Reciprocating Type Water Cooled Air Compressor; Air Receiver Tanks; Air Dryer
WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT - Horizontal Lathe HWACHEON 1500mm Length 580mm Swing; Horizontal Milling Machine NAMSUNG 1000mm Travel x 320mm Cross Travel; Column Drill; Hydraulic Press; Power Saw; Pipe Bending Electrode Drying Oven; Welders; Tools
STRUCTURAL STEEL FOR BUILDING - 5 Pre-Frabricated Steel Buildings (less cladding)
MISCELLANEOUS - UPS Electrical System

Viewing is strictly by appointment
All items may be purchased prior to auction closing date
For more details please contact Mr. Graham Ellis at 852 2910/11
E-mail: graham.ellis@henrybutcher.com

HENRY BUTCHER
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
For Locally Funded Projects

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Re-advertisement)

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Locally Funded Projects and Procurement of Supplies, Equipment and Services, invites Consultants categorized as local experts to apply for eligibility to bid for the Contract for the Pre-Feasibility Study and Master Plan for Zamboanga International Airport Development Project. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Four Million Four Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Pesos (P4,465,000.00).

Prospective Consultants should be registered under any umbrella organization of consultants recognized by the Government with expertise on transportation and had undertaken projects similar to the project proposed for bidding within the last three (3) years.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the highest rated calculated bid and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities are listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 08, 16-2004
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Until March 18, 2004
3. Results of Eligibility (Pick-up)	March 31-April 05, 2004
4. Issuance of bid documents	April 05-08, 2004
5. Pre-bidding conference	April 15, 2004
6. Submission & Opening of Bids	April 27, 2004

The Eligibility Screening Forms and Bid Tender Documents will be available at Unit 55, The Columbia Tower Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon submission of a Letter of Intent, and payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the DOTC Cashier.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor defects and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government. It assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO A. REYES, JR.**
Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership
& Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

(PDI – March 2 & 9, 2004)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP, China OK expanded air rights pact

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES and China have agreed, in a recently concluded air talks, to double the seating capacity of their respective carriers servicing the RP-China route in four years and expand by 15 times the volume of cargoes carried by these airlines.

The agreement also allowed the mounting of selected fifth freedom flights between the two countries.

Representatives from the two countries held talks in Beijing last week to expand the 1979 Philippine-Sino Air Service Agreement.

Under the agreement, the Philippines and China will gradually increase the seating capacity of their airlines servicing the route to 6,000 weekly this year, 8,000 in 2006 and 10,000 by 2008 from only 5,000 weekly at present.

The cargo capacity was increased to 800 tons weekly from the current 50 tons a week.

Limited stopover rights were also granted to their carriers.

"We were able to get a substantial accommodation by increasing the passenger entitlements in a staggered basis. From 50 tons weekly, the amount of cargo that can be transported by both sides increased to 800 tons weekly," said an informed source.

An official from a local freight company said the increase in the cargo capacity would allow Philippine aviation firms to position in the Chinese market that has more than 1 billion in population.

The two countries also agreed to mount fifth freedom flights that would allow their carriers to fly to a third country.

With this arrangement, Philippine Airlines for instance, can fly from Manila to Shanghai in China, where it can pick up passengers going to any destination except Japan, Korea, Australia and Europe. However, flying from a third country to China is not allowed.

While China gave Philippine carriers stopover rights, it excluded Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou from the list of stop-over airports.

New revenue measures to raise ₱40B for gov't

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing a set of additional revenue-generating measures that will boost tax collection by about P40 billion per year.

The move is intended to arrest the widening of the budget gap and help achieve the government's goal of having a balanced budget by 2010.

An official of the Department of Finance said the government was contemplating on tapping new sources of revenue in the belief that current tax measures were not enough to pull the country out of the deficit quagmire.

The finance official said the "shopping list" of additional tax measures would be presented in today's meeting of the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee. Upon approval, the DBCC will present them to the next Congress for legislation.

The DOF said the list included an increase in the collection of common carriers tax from water transport; rationalization of fiscal incentives on the importation of capital equipment, and the rationalization of excise taxes on "sin" products.

The imposition of excise tax on cellular phone text messages was also one of the measures that could be raised in the meeting, said another source.

The finance department earlier said measures that would tighten the collection of the common carriers tax on water transport was necessary in view of the huge revenue losses from the shipping industry.

In a report, Rep. Herminio Teves, chair of the House committee on ways and means, said the government was losing over P400 million in revenue yearly from uncollected tax on water transport firms.

Citing data from the Philippine Ports Authority, Teves said in the same report that total passengers carried by water transport firms in 1999 reached 43,228,478.

With an average water transport fare of P400 per passenger, Teves said gross receipts of water transport firms amounted to P17.3 billion in that year.

With a 3-percent common carriers tax, the BIR should have collected P519 million. The actual collection of the BIR, however, was a measly P76.15 million.

The government is hoping to trim down the tax perks given to exporters particularly on their capital equipment importation.

The DOF earlier expressed dismay over the failure of Congress to pass any of the pending bills on the rationalization of the excise tax on sin products, which could have placed the country in a better cash position this year.

The government is hoping to collect an additional P13.5 billion from the excise tax rationalization.

The government's budget deficit stood at P199.9 billion last year. It has set a budget gap ceiling of P197.8 billion for this year.

BIR to go after tax cheats in insurance sector

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue threatened to have the licenses of erring insurance companies revoked should they continue evading paying proper taxes.

The BIR issued the warning after uncovering massive under-declaration of taxes by non-life insurance companies, especially those that service owners of private and public utility vehicles (PUVs).

The BIR estimated that revenue lost due to non payment of documentary stamp tax (DST) on vehicle insurance policies reached hundreds of millions of pesos.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the agency would ask the Insurance Commission (IC) to suspend the licenses of non-life insurance companies found defrauding the BIR until they settle their tax liabilities. The BIR will also seek the revocation of the licenses of those who will refuse to settle their obligation despite notice from the government, said Henares.

Citing data from the Land Transportation Office, the BIR reported that 4.5 million vehicles were registered in 2003. However, the government's DST collection from vehicle insurance only accounted for about 850,000 registrants, or less than 20 percent of what should have been collected. *Michelle V. Remo*

PGMA matches business' ₱100-M guarantee fund

PRESIDENT Macapagal–Arroyo linked arms with the private sector and decided to to match the initiative of the 100-day business agenda group to set up a P100-million fund for poverty alleviation.

The guarantee fund is the centerpiece project of the 100-day business agenda which was recently proposed to all the presidential aspirants by SGV cofounder Washington Sycip, former trade secretary Jose Pardo, Philippine Long Distance Co. chair Manuel Pangilinan and San Miguel president Ramon Ang as a symbolic commitment to help spur the momentum for an economic rebound after the May 10 polls.

The group said a strong business community-government collaboration was indispensable to a social and economic revival after the national election.

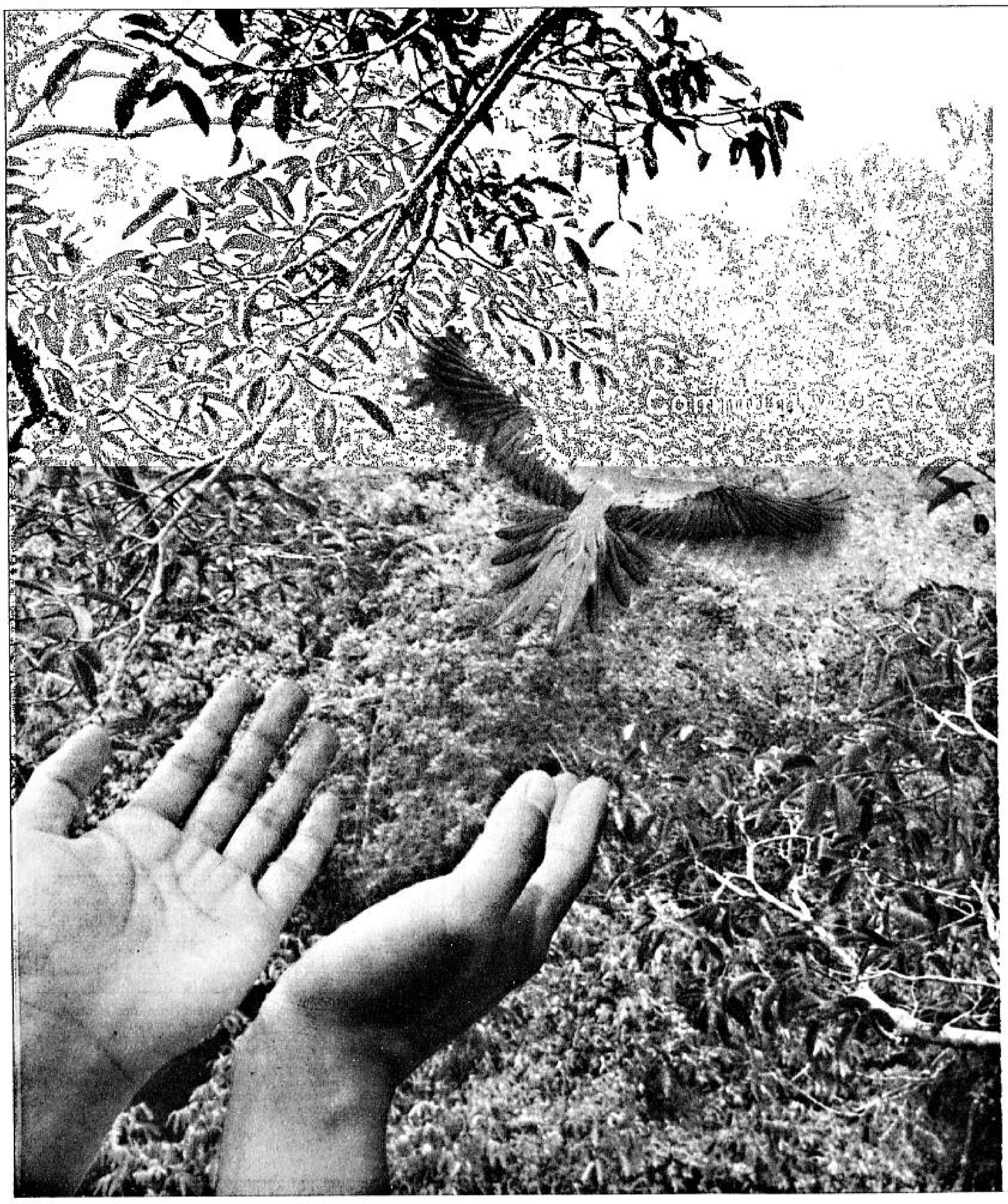
"Ms Macapagal was pleased with the business sector's commitment to pool together a minimum of P100 million to start a guarantee fund for affordable credit for lower income Filipinos. In fact, she is working towards matching the fund so that its impact is greater," said Butch Jimenez, head of the 100-day agenda task force.

Called "Guaranty Pool for Poverty Alleviation," the fund aims to free low-income entrepreneurs from informal high-interest credit sources and encourage entry into under-invested and less-competitive markets.

"This is the sector's way of showing the government that we are sincere in our bid to help rebuild the country," Jimenez said.

Jimenez added that the President has welcomed the well-intentioned initiative and has appointed Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima to work with the group on how to push the agenda forward.

The paper urged "bold initiatives that will address the crippling budget deficit, ballooning foreign debt, deteriorating competitiveness and crisis in investor confidence, widespread poverty and public cynicism." It recommended new tax measures, the legalization of jueteng, reduction of the size of the bureaucracy and foreign debt renegotiation.



At Toyota, our long-term commitment to environmental protection is based on a sense of global community. Good community relations begin at home, and our corporate forestation programs are putting that principle into action. By creating a cleaner, greener environment for Toyota employees to work in, we also create an oasis for the community, and give something back to the earth that nurtures us all. It's all part of our commitment to corporate social responsibility, and reflects our heartfelt desire to preserve and protect the beauty of nature for generations to come.

www.toyota.com.ph www.toyota.co.jp

TOYOTA

Cory Quirino's tips from a women's health book /C4

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY **ARTS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **HOME & FASHION** ● SUNDAY **SURPRISES**

Supplements and drugs don't always mix

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IN LAST week's column, I wrote about how calcium interferes with the absorption of iron. This is an example of supplement interaction, and it doesn't just happen between competing minerals. It can also occur between vitamins and minerals, herbs and other drugs.

These days, it is not uncommon for people to take a combination of supplements ranging from vitamins and minerals to herbs to hormones like melatonin. "Poly-pharmacy" is the term used by the American Council on Science and Health (ACHS) to describe the practice of taking many medications and supplements. The nonprofit consumer education organization warns that there is a risk of an adverse interaction between supplements and prescription or over-the-counter drugs.

When interaction occurs

The ACHS lists down several possible ways that an interaction can occur. First, a drug and a supplement can have similar actions, so when you take both at the same time, the effect is magnified. For example, vitamin E and anti-coagulation medication both thin the blood. Taking both may cause internal bleeding.

Second, a supplement may

SUPPLEMENTS/C3

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

USA Vitamin Sale!
We deliver anywhere in the Philippines!
•GlutaBioC (skin whitener w/ glutathione, rose hips & bioflavonoids). +500mg: P40.
•Ginkgo: P7. •Glucosamine. 750mg: P12.
•Lipoic Acid: P12. •Silymarin. 200mg: P8.
•Grapeseed Ext. 100mg: P13. •CoQ10: P16.
•Spirulina. 500mg: P6. •Probiotic Pill: P7.
•Glutathione. 250mg: P25. •Veggie Pill: P5.
Unit 715 City & Land Mega Plaza
(behind Robinson's Galleria), Pasig City
•Tel 687-5023 •Cell: 0918-3461156

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill Cowboy Grill Cowboy Grill

LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644 KOOLJACKS CROSSTOWN OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474 MEN OPPOSE CHICULLED/E-MAGE OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143 EMMANUELLE ZEST OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757 MUSIC CIRCUIT CRO MAGNON OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 FAT 16 HEADWORKZ OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE

TIA MARIA'S TIA MARIA'S TIA MARIA'S
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429 RHYTHM ACE RIGHT SPELLING NO ENTRANCE FEE

MARCH 9 TUESDAY 438-3942

WALKING DOWN THAT BOTTLED WATER AISLE

Choosing bottled water is sometimes like choosing the right man or woman. Make the wrong choice and it will make your life miserable. Choose the right one and ahhhhh! Your partner, or bottled water, washes away all your cares.

Water is our body's "better-half." It makes up more than half of our body. It's responsible for nearly all bodily functions. And it maintains the health of most of our organs. That's why it's important to choose "the right one."

But how do you do that with so many types of bottled water in the market? While there is no "best" type of water, as there is no "best" type of man or woman either, a brief rundown of the kinds of bottled water commercially available might help you choose the right type for your life.

According to Henry Kim, Ph.D., a chemist at the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant and Dairy Foods and Beverages, bottled water can be divided into two categories: their bottling method and extraction process or origin.

1. **Spring Water** - This type of bottled water must be collected only at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation feeding the spring. As such, very little treatment is allowed with spring water.

2. **Mineral Water** - Comes from a source tapped at one or more bore holes or springs from a geologically and physically protected underground water source. It is distinguished from other types of bottled water by its constant level of mineral and other trace elements at the point of emergence from the source and contains not less than 250 parts per million total dissolved solids.

3. **Purified Water** - This type has been treated by distillation, reverse osmosis, or other processes that meet the definition of "purified water" in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia. Purified water must have less than 10 parts per million of dissolved solids. It is also sometimes called distilled water.

4. **Distilled Water** - Made by boiling water and taking the steam through a special process, thus cooling the steam to reform water again. Distilled water has cleansing effects but if used for over a long period of time it will leach vital nutrients out of the body. It should only be drunk on a short term cleansing program to detoxify the body.

5. **Sterilized Water** - This is the safest type of bottled water as it is completely free from bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microorganisms that could cause infection. Sterilized water must meet international standards for commercial sterility as well as "sterility test" requirements to be classified as sterilized water. Because it is the safest and cleanest water commercially available, sterilized water is recommended for use by infants for formula feeding and drunk by people with immuno-compromised systems.

There it is.

So next time you're walking down that supermarket aisle, read the labels to ascertain the type and the quality of the water before you say, "Yes, I do" want this water.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

The unveiling happens March 9, 6 p.m. at the One McKinley Place lobby, Bonifacio Global City. By invitation only.

Soon you can own:
☑ An affordable premium condo
☑ with a sports resort membership
☑ and a luxury mall next door

For announcement purposes only.

A whole new concept of a
premier residence with its own sports resort
right in the heart of Makati.
Soon to rise. Watch for it!
For inquiries, please call: 8300456 · 8300457 · 0917-8272560

A new landmark project of
PHILTOWN
A Subsidiary of RFM Corporation

CHORUS LINE. Tenette Puyat, Sigalit D., Camille Samson, Jessica Puyat and Cathy Lichauco

IT'S PARTY TIME. *Moi*, Vicky Zubiri, Carla Tengco, Inno Sotto, the celebrator, Carol Garcia and Andy Vasquez Prada

ORGANIZERS of the surprise bash. Oudine Santos (second from left) and Karen Santos (fifth from left); Direck Santos, Camille Samson, Sigalit, Shiela Stephenson and Manny Samson

Family dinner turns into surprise birthday bash

CLOSE friends of the celebrator. Miguel and Claudia Tambunting, John Stephenson and Frenchman Christophe Lejeun

CHILLING for a while. Gov. Joe Zubiri, Carol Garcia, Karen Santos and Al Tengco

THE ROSE with the dudes. Raul Manzano, Bea Zobel, and brothers two, Alvaro and Adrian Pertierra

PEOPLE WATCHING. Joseph Gueta, Yael and Ely Abecasis

BADMINTON GALS. Annabelle Adriano, Southern lady Lucille Villanueva and Fanny Blanco

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

MORE than 50 of our city's très elite pack showed up for cocktails and finger foods, then a yummy buffet, excellently prepared by the popular Wasabi restaurant.

It was a surprise birthday bash organized by her hubby and super pals, like **Oudine Santos, Gemma Garcia** and **Karen Santos,** for super fashion plate **Sigalit Djemal.** She had no idea at all that her pals would be there to wish her a happy birthday.

Her husband, renowned international businessman **Sinai Djemal,** told her it was going to be a family dinner with their children, after which she was supposed to meet us all at Nuvo for drinks.

Well, *palanggas*, you can imagine the look on Sigalit's face when she walked into the resto and the gang sang "Happy Birthday."

Her first instinct was to whack her husband on the shoulder. This was instantly followed by a big smack on his lips, which was applauded by the invitees.

A mix of international and local businessmen, socialites and today's hip shakers and achievers made it a point to be present.

And before you could bat an eyelash, Moet and Chandon champagne, vodka, scotch and beer flowed like they were coming from an endless waterfall. And the pack p-a-r-t-i-e-d, *palanggas*!

Vicky Zubiri looked delicious in an icing green outfit from Mango. **Joel Uichico** and his lady love, **Bea Zobel Jr.,** held hands almost all night long—when she was not on the dance floor; **Lulu Tan Gan** and hubby **Joseph Gueta** circulated endlessly. **Raul Manzano,** Bacolod royal **Alvaro Pertierra, Carol Garcia, Toffer Vidal,** the celebrator S.D., my favorite pepperoni **Pepper Teehankee,** star and image maker **Joji Dingcong, Karen Santos** and entrepreneur **Al Tengco,** owner of the most "in" Chinese restaurant, Hei Chin Rou on Pasay Road, were having a blast on and off the dance floor, *palanggas*.

Yael and **Eli Abecasis, Linda** and **David Halac,** gorgeous movie star **Cherie Gil** and renowned violinist **Rony Rogoff, Carla Tengco,** fun **Sharmila Giranand** and **Patxi Elizalde, Peter** and **Debbie Yabut,** plus a few others like them preferred to just watch the action.

But no one could out-talk, out-dance or out-party the prince of *alta moda* himself, **Inno Sotto.**

Jetting in was New York-based, tall, wealthy, super handsome, eligible businessman **Adrian Pertierra** (brother of Alvaro), who had eyes only for eye-catching exotic beauty Oudine Santos, and stayed by her side all night long.

Needless to say, our queen for a day, Sigalit, had the best time of all.

What was the formula for this great bash? Beautiful people, successful in their own businesses, and a blend of international flavors. All in all, dahlings, it spells a soirée that's *tres* formidable!

Revival

With badminton making a comeback with tidal-wave force after eons of being forgotten, centers devoted to the sport are now springing up like mushrooms all over the country, *palanggas*.

The latest one is the posh West Drive Badminton Center, located at 60 West Capitol Drive, Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City, which had a grand inauguration with the hotshot southern lady, our super *palangga* **Amelita "Ming" Ramos,** president of the Philippine Badminton Association, as guest of honor, no less.

Assisting her in snipping the ceremonial ribbon were hot namedroppables like well-loved Rep. **Cynthia Villar,** beauties **Mila Drilon** and **Kitkat Zobel,** business magnate **Rafael Hechanova.**

Founded by mega business magnate **Felix Amparo Jr.** and man for all seasons **Alvin Alvarez,** "this badminton center clearly has one of the biggest and most complete facilities for this fast-growing sport in the country."

It boasts of, take note, 16 courts (eight with rubber mat floors and eight with wood) with a high ceiling insulated with fiberglass, plus everything else for the comfort of members and their guests, *palanggas*.

The center, ideally located close to both residential areas and commercial establishments, is now accepting applications for membership, but is setting a limit on the number of club members to minimize queuing for the use of facilities.

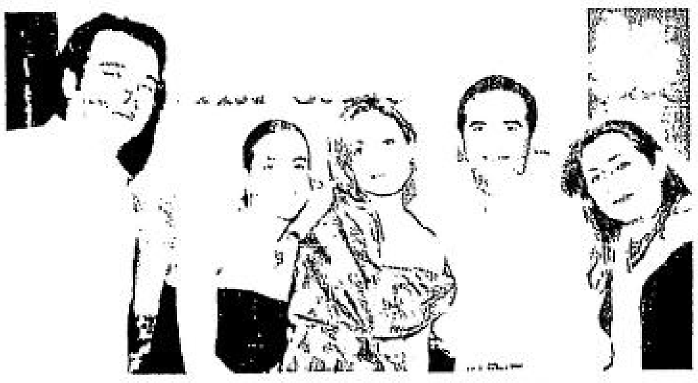
Great idea, *palanggas*. For more info, check them out at 6364354 or 0917-5250105.

BUSINESSMAN Sinai Djemal with his wife, the woman-of-the-hour, Sigalit Djemal

MOVIE star Cherie Gil with husband Rony Rogoff

MARIPI Muscat

LET'S DRINK. Pepper Teehankee, Paris-based Melissa Lopez and her dahling, French businessman Joel Journey



THE FORBES GANG. Top man of Taal Vista Lounge, Alfredo Roca; Sofia Elizalde Zobel, Sigalit, Patxi Elizalde and Mabolo's Gemma Garcia, another organizer of the party

SUPER PALS. Chiqui Banzon, Debbie Yabut, Charmella Herranan and Carol Garcia

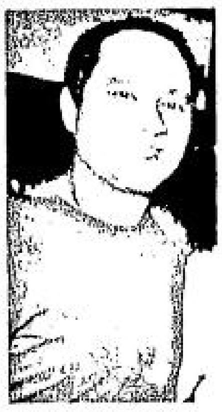
HEY, we love badminton! Tessie Amparo, Lixie Dizon, Joe Dizon, vivacious Jessica Puyat and Joan Young

HOTSHOT businessmen. Haresh Herranan and Peter Yabut

SOME of the special ribbon-snippers with some invitees: Carry Bautista, Peachie Maramba, Alan Alvarez, Ming Ramos, Henrie Santos, Mila Drilon, Cynthia Villar, Kitkat Zobel and Junie Amparo

BADMINTON DIE-HARDS. (seated) Marilou Arceo, Vida Lao, Tintin Cheng, and Candice Cheng; (standing) Carina Amparo, Junjun Lao and Baldwin Cheng

SPECIAL guest Paing Hechanova



MIKEY Cojuangco

Why some prayers are answered

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

MOST people pray, not only priests and religious individuals. Ordinary people, as well as politicians, criminals, prostitutes and sorcerers, also pray.

Poor people pray for money, politicians for votes, prostitutes for wealthy customers, criminals for protection from the police, and sorcerers for the success of their evil intent.

While everybody prays for something, not all prayers are granted. If I were God, I would probably wear ear plugs so I wouldn't hear the billions of prayers ringing in my ears every second!

How does God choose which prayer to answer and which one to junk? Does he throw a heavenly coin or die to help him decide? Or has a decision been made from the beginning of time?

I've always been intrigued by the power of prayer to get what we want in life, to change a physical condition—health, wealth or relationship.

What I know is that there are prayers that work and those that don't. What makes the difference is the subject of this article.

The ones that worked

In September 1995, my long-time friend and soul sister Cory Quirino was kidnapped by hardened and merciless criminals in Lake Caliraya. Her driver was shot on the head at close range but miraculously survived.

Cory was brought to far-flung places and held captive for 21 agonizing hours, her fate completely at the mercy of a murderous gang.

Cory never lost her cool throughout her ordeal. She somehow knew she would survive this great challenge in her life.

In those dark hours of great uncertainty, she closed her eyes and saw in her vision the blood of Christ. She uttered a prayer: "Blood of Christ, cover me and deliver me from danger." She repeated this prayer countless of times.

Miraculously she was rescued by the Philippine National Police in Calauag, Quezon. Five of her kidnappers, led by a criminal with a big prize on his head, were arrested and sentenced to death in 1998. Since then, Cory has made a lifetime commitment to the Blood of Christ.

Another powerful prayer that worked was the Prayer of Jabez. Jabez is a character in the Old Testament and is briefly described in the Chronicles as "a man more honorable than his brothers." His mother named him Jabez, which literally meant "he will cause pain," because his birth was so painful.

What makes Jabez stand out is his prayer, which was answered by God, while the others were not. It is actually a very simple petition, but "a daring prayer that God always answers," according to Bruce Wilkinson, who wrote a small book, "The Prayer of Jabez," which became a best-seller.

"It is brief, only one sentence with four parts and tucked away in the Bible," continued Wilkinson, "but I believe it contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God."

Here then is the powerful prayer of Jabez, which God granted:

"Oh, that you would bless me, indeed, and enlarge my territory, that your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!"

Try it and see what happens. According to the publisher, "the prayer of Jabez has already changed thousands of lives." Testimonials have come from people who have obtained results with it.

Most prayers ask God for something tangible or material. Even the Lord's Prayer asks God to "give us our daily bread."

Nothing wrong with that because it's really basic, but that started a trend that tended to be abused. People began to expect God to do all the work while they waited. That misses the other essential part of what makes prayer effective—our part in it.

To make a prayer, produce the result you want, you must, first of all, really have a strong desire for what you are asking; second, you must believe in the prayer; and third, you must anticipate or expect that results will surely follow as a necessary consequence of the prayer.

Let no doubt enter your mind that your prayer will be answered. Otherwise, if you have even a slight doubt, it will not happen. Your mind plays as big a role as God's grace or mercy in the efficacy of a prayer.

The prayer of Cory and the prayer of Jabez worked because they both had purity of intention and they were both honorable in the eyes of God.

Clarity of vision, open mind

Since we are on the subject of prayer, I would like to share this brief prayer given to us by Ang Suh, a high spirit from the upper 5th dimension. It does not ask God for any material thing but for clarity of vision, an open mind and sharpness of hearing:

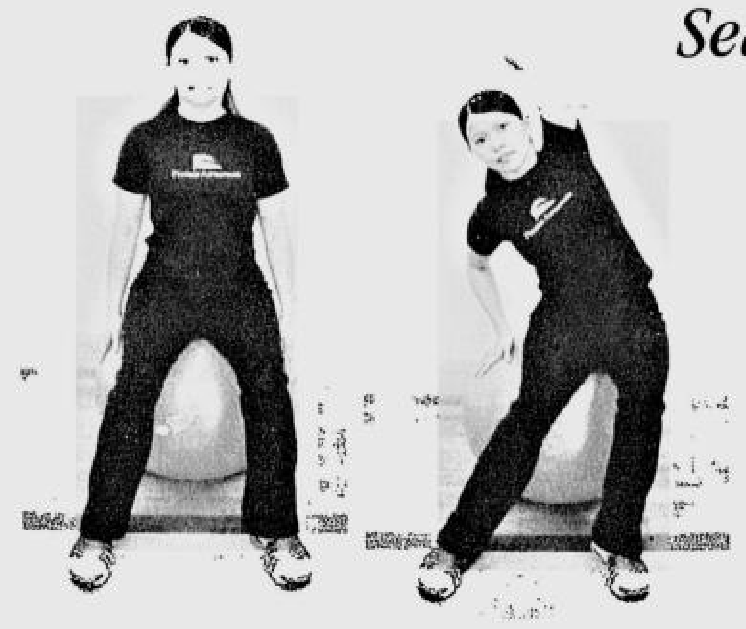
"Oh, heavenly Father, in your abode all is crystal-clear. Grant us the clarity of vision to see with an open mind, the sharpness of auditory activity to hear with our hearts, and the openness of speech with a Golden Voice to express the truth.

"This we ask tonight and in the coming days of our journey to perfection. Amen."

Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 7-8:30 p.m.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Seated lateral stretch on stability ball



THIS EXERCISE stretches the sides of the torso.

Equipment:

Stability ball. A chair or stool can be used as a substitute.

Exercise technique:

1. Sit on the ball with legs wider than the hips and hands holding the sides of the ball.

2. Use your hips to push the ball to the right as you simultaneously bring your right arm overhead.

3. Hold the stretch for the desired length of time. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. To challenge your balance, keep the legs together.

2. Focus on lengthening and elongating as you press your hips to the side.

Repetitions:

Hold the stretch for 10-30 seconds. Do the exercise once or twice.

Tips from a women's. . .

From page C4

can help prevent cancer. If detected early, cancer is not a death sentence. Half of all cancers can be detected by screening, so have a regular checkup.

- Learn to cope with stress. Stressful conditions can lead to illness. Take up relaxation techniques (yoga, Pilates, chigong); do deep breathing, meditation, massage, or start a stress or mental diary.

Trust your gut feel

The stomach is called a woman's "second brain" and the gut may be called a barometer of a woman's emotional and physical health. Research shows there are more neurotransmitters in a woman's gut than in her brain. Chronic stomach conditions may be the body's way of telling you a situation is unbearable.

Mental fitness

- Mental health is one of women's biggest concerns. The most common problem is depression, which affects women more than men. Triggers and risk factors include stressful job, children growing up and leaving home, history of mental illness, unhappy/abusive marriage or relationship, substance abuse, medical conditions. Treatments include antidepressants, psychotherapy, herbal remedies, mind-body workouts/exercise, dietary treatments.

Being a woman

As your life progresses, your needs will change. Some dreams will be replaced by more realistic goals. Always remember, you can remake yourself no matter what.

Take a break from nurturing your family and pamper yourself. List down the goals you have not met and prioritize according to what they will give you spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially. If you don't learn to love yourself, who will?

A woman's battlecry

"I am woman, I am one. I have one body and I will nurture it, one heart and I will honor it, one spirit and I will liberate it."

Love and light!

Reference: "The Book of Women's Health," by Jana Stantunes

Supplements and drugs don't always mix

From page C1

counteract the effect of a drug. In other words, the supplement and the drug have opposing functions.

In the example used by the ACHS, zinc (which stimulates the immune system) can interfere with drugs designed to suppress the immune system like corticosteroids.

A third type of interaction happens when a supplement affects the absorption of the drug. If calcium is taken at the same time as tetracycline (an antibiotic), less of the drug may be absorbed. As a result, according to the ACHS, the antibiotic won't be as effective as it should be.

The last type of interaction mentioned by the ACHS is when a supplement affects the way the body breaks down a drug. "For example, the herb St. John's wort increases the activity of an enzyme that breaks down some drugs used in the treatment of heart disease, cancer or AIDS as well as drugs used to prevent the rejection of organ transplants. If a patient who is taking one of these drugs also takes St. John's wort, the drug may be broken down more quickly than usual, and it won't be fully effective."

Effect of food

It isn't just supplements that can interfere with your medications. Some types of food can also have a significant effect, sometimes even a fatal one.

A chemical called tyramine, which is found in some beers, wines, cheese and sausages can cause a dangerous rise in blood pressure in people taking a specific type of anti-depressant known as MAO inhibitors.

Another food item that can cause major problems is grapefruit. It contains a still unidentified substance that affects the way certain drugs are broken down by the body, making the concentration of drugs in the blood either higher or lower than normal.

Although grapefruit juice does not have this effect on all drugs (it usually affects drugs for lowering cholesterol and blood pressure, certain antihistamines [anti-allergy], and anti-depressants), experts say it is best to avoid taking any kind of medication with grapefruit juice. Other citrus juices are okay.

The other substance that should be avoided when taking medication is alcohol. It usually interacts (makes the drug more concentrated or less effective, or causes side effects like dizziness and nausea) with antibiotics, anti-depressants, anti-coagulants, cardiovascular medication, diabetic medications, antihistamines, sedatives, anti-ulcer, pain relievers, and the list goes on.

Like grapefruit juice, alcohol doesn't adversely affect all drugs but it affects so many of them that the wisest thing to do is to totally avoid mixing alcohol with your medication.

Common interactions

Here's a short list of common supplement-drug interactions. For more detailed information, go to:

- http://www.acsh.org/publications/story/drug_suppl/ (supplement-drug interaction)
- http://www.nclnet.org/fooddruord.html (grapefruit-drug interactions)
- http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa27.htm (alcohol-drug interactions)

In general, poor absorption of vitamin taken with drugs is the common problem .

- Tetracyline will deplete the amount of vitamin C in your body while salicylates (like aspirin) decrease the uptake.
- Neomycin can retard the absorption of vitamin A and beta-carotene while tetracycline can cause high blood pressure when combined with vitamin A and beta-carotene.
- Oral contraceptives increase the requirement for vitamin B-6.
- Aspirin competes with folic acid while barbiturates will cause malabsorption of the vitamin.
- Vitamin E should not be taken with anti-coagulants or blood thinners, omega-3 fatty acids (fish oil supplements), and corticosteroids because of the increased blood thinning effect.
- Calcium can interfere with the absorption of tetracycline and thyroid hormones.
- High doses of vitamin C can interfere with tests for blood in the stool.
- Alcohol can increase the sedative effect of chamomile, kava and valerian.

Warnings

The ACHS has three additional warnings worth mentioning:

"The extent to which St. John's wort interacts with medications is only beginning to be understood. ACHS recommends that anyone who is taking any crucially important medication should not use this herb unless the physician who prescribed the drug has specifically approved its use.

"More food and drug interactions have been reported for Coumadin (a type of blood thinner) than for any other medication. Patients taking Coumadin should not start or stop taking any other medications or alternative therapies or make any substantial changes in their eating habits without consulting their physicians.

"Because there is a potential for extremely serious interactions between monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors and a variety of food components, dietary supplements, and other drugs, anyone who is taking this type of medication should scrupulously follow all of the dietary and other instructions provided by the physician who prescribed the drug."

The phenomenon of "poly-pharmacy" indicates how important it is to give your doctor a complete list of all the supplements and medication you are currently taking whenever you are prescribed new drugs.

Sometimes your doctor will tell you to take the supplement and the drug two hours apart, take them separately in the morning and evening, or will tell you to stop taking the supplement while you are taking the medication.

In addition to being honest with your doctor, get as much information as you can on the possible interactions between your supplements and medication. It's always best to be proactive about your health.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
Rx MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What will I do if I need to see a dental specialist?

In general, our dental healthcare services are limited to regular cleaning, dental fillings, tooth extractions and basic consultations. The services of dental specialists (such as TMJ specialists and orthodontists) are outside of the (standard) coverage we provide. Consult your favored MEDICard dentist and check if you really require the services of a dental specialist and request to be referred to one that he is familiar with.

Meet your MEDICard Team

After receiving her degree in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, Dr. Eunice U. Tan chose to specialize in the field of Internal Medicine. This recently accredited specialist also holds a subspecialization in Endocrinology, which she took at the National University Hospital in Singapore. Doc Eunice, a Diplomate of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism and a Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians is a music lover and is known to be fond of playing guitars and keyboards. She also likes to spend her free time enriching her knowledge through reading and surfing the Web. For your consultation needs, visit her clinic at St. Luke's Medical Center, Room 526 of the Medical Arts Bldg., every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Contract Signing

ASSOCIATED BROADCASTING COMPANY (ABC Channel 5), recently entrusted to MEDICard the healthcare of its employees and their dependents Present during the agreement signing were (seated L-R) MEDICard's EVP & GM, Luis Montoya & Pres., Dr Nicanor Montoya with ABC's EVP & COO, Regalado Galura & HRD Dir , Hans Montenegro (Standing L-R) MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.), Miriam Villafuerte (Mktg Services Mngr.), Junn Miergas (Corp. Accounts Mngr.) & Alex Bombay (Accounts Exec) with Ma. Leah Potente (ABC HRD Sup)

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICARD: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch Mobile) or 4627 (Smart & Talk N' Text).
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

Mag Drive-Thru sa Jollibee, get a Car Litter Bag
FREE! with every ₱250 food purchase
Jollibee
Jollibee Drive Thru
Promo runs February 16 to March 31, 2004

Tips from a women's health book

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

MANAGING one's health can and should be an organized endeavor. With prevention in mind, you can plan for the hard times so sickness can be neutralized or avoided altogether.

Although you should always consult a physician for health problems, here are some tips from a women's health book to help you make informed decisions about well-being and health.

Networking

Your immediate network is your family, close friends and medical practitioners.

- Emotional support from friends, colleagues, spouses and others can heal you. Studies have shown that a solid relationship is good medicine. Do what you can to strengthen your circle of friends and stay in touch.
- Doctor-patient relationships are important. Know who to call in an emergency. Draw up your health-care team—for example, gynecologist, general practitioner, allergist....
- Talk to your partner. Men, in particular, often refuse to discuss their health problems and would not see a doctor or have a checkup until it is almost too late.
- Knowledge is power. Learn your medical history and find out disease patterns in your family.

Magical medicine

Movement, consistent and regular, is all you need to be stronger. Include exercise in your lifestyle. Begin with something you enjoy—dancing, roller-skating, aerobics, swimming. If you're a homebody, even going up and down the stairs for 20 minutes can be good for you!

If you are overweight, walk daily for 30 minutes.

- Eat right. An iron-rich (leafy greens, egg yolks, beans, lean meat/liver), low-fat, low-sugar, low-sodium, high-fiber diet is a must. Cutting back on carbohydrates and sugar will mean some weight loss after two weeks. A loss of 5 lbs can reduce blood sugar rates while 10 lbs can lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
- Start small. Don't starve yourself. Cut back on calories slowly.
- For menopause, check out more natural remedies such as progesterone/estrogen creams and herbal medications like black cohosh and evening primrose oil. HRT (hormone-replacement therapy) is now considered unsafe.

Symptoms of the onset of menopause include hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings, irregular periods. A post-menopausal woman is one who has missed her period for one year.

Profound changes can happen when estrogen and progesterone levels are low: weight gain; dry, aging skin; urinary-tract infections; increased risk of heart disease; osteoporosis or brittle bones; and vaginal dryness.

Have a breast examination and pap smear every year. You might want to check your hormone levels through a salivary test called Aaron Life Cycles (GNC, the health care center-Dr. Victor Vesuna, tel. 7210564). Increase intake of soy products (natural sources of estrogen).

Hysterectomy is sometimes recommended by doctors for certain disorders. Consult several doctors and examine your options before undergoing surgery.

- Exercise, proper diet and quitting smoking

EMPOWERING/ C3

Imedeen is a Winner!

Imedeen has been voted the No. 1 beauty supplement in the UK by Boots customers. This accolade reflects both Imedeen's success as a leading 'internal' skincare brand and Imedeen's prominence within Boots as their top-selling beauty supplement.

Boots is the UK's leading provider of health and beauty products with over 1,400 stores nationwide. One million of their top customers were polled to ask for their positive experiences and favourite products and Imedeen was voted No. 1 in the beauty category—an outstanding level of customer satisfaction backed up by excellent testimonials. One customer claimed 'Imedeen really improved my complexion as it can be very dry at times, but all the dryness cleared and my skin became radiant', while another said 'I have been taking Imedeen for years now and I can honestly say it is the best supplement I have ever used. It really has made a visible difference to my skin'.

The Award was presented to UK General Manager, Suzi Salkeld, by celebrity sports presenter, Kirsty Gallagher, at a press breakfast in London on 20th January 2004.

ADVT.

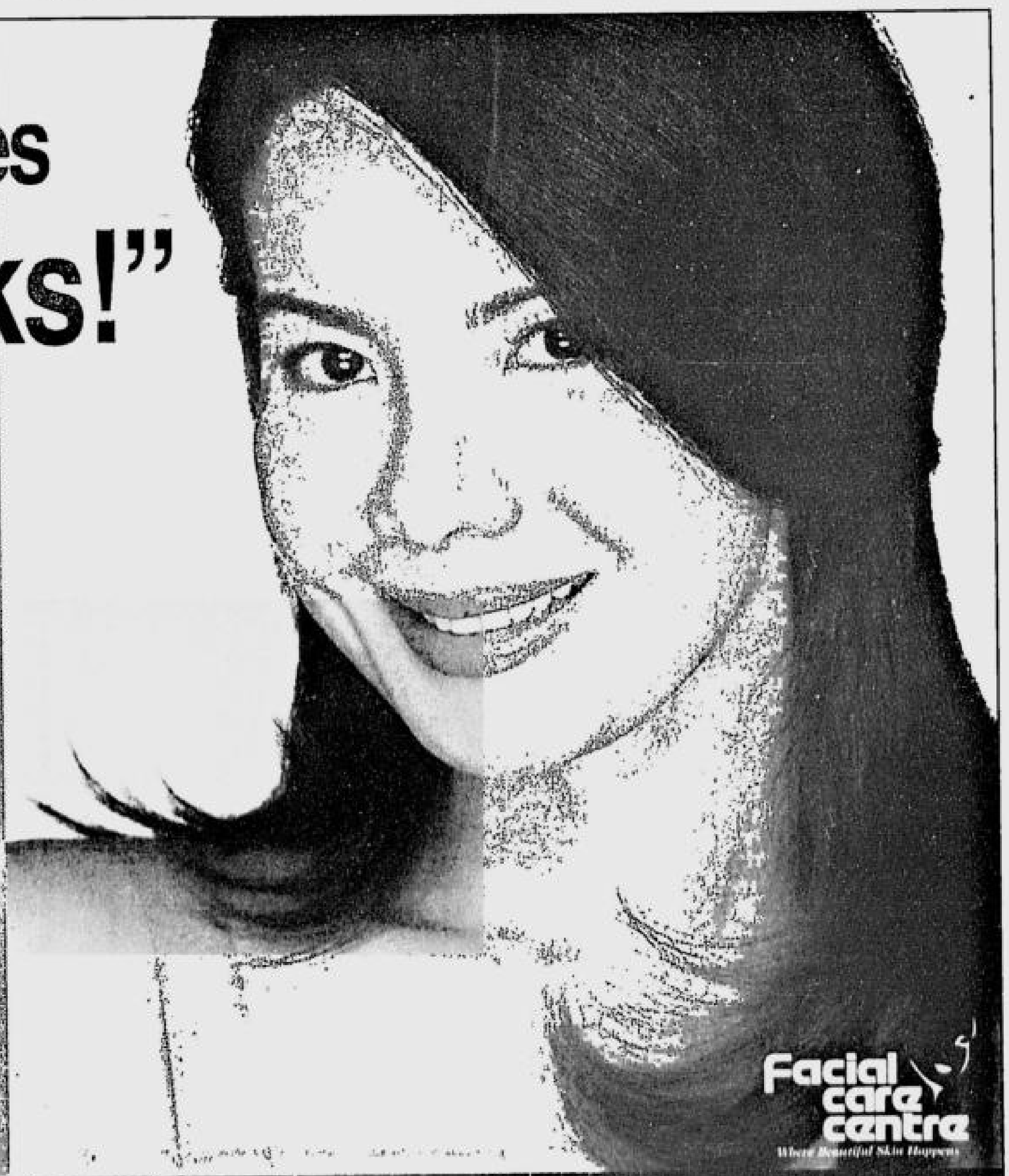
Lines that count. The only lines that matter for Imedeen are the votes that made it the top* beauty supplement in the United Kingdom. All the other lines–wrinkles, spots, and marks–are made to go away.

IMEDEEN®
The Skincare Tablet

*as voted by the customers of Boots, UK's leading health and beauty shop.

Available at Rustan's Shangri-La, Cubao and Harrison Plaza department stores • Mercury Drug, Watson's Personal Care Store, Rose Pharmacy and other leading drugstores • Forever Flawless, Luz Facial Center, The Blue Mountains skincare centers

Freckles & Blemishes
"IPL Really Works!"



"IPL really makes a big difference. After only a couple of treatments, my skin pigmentations and freckles have visibly lightened. People tell me I look younger, fresher, more beautiful. Now I'm more secure to go out without makeup."

Carmi Martin
Actress/Interior Design Consultant

NOW AT 25% DISCOUNT

You, too, can have flawless skin. Enroll from **March 8-13, 2004** and get **25% discount** on IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. So you can have your freckles, age spots, or spider veins erased from your face, shoulders, back, hands, or anywhere that skin imperfections show.

Call the Facial Care Centre NOW.

Per DTI-NCR Permit #0472, Series of 2004

IPL UNITS NOW AVAILABLE AT ALABANG & BINONDO.

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816 1259	687 2196	372 6633	534 7701/02	842 1144	243 8138/39	920 7938	961 3404/08	233 7631
815 3121	687 2197	372 6634	717 0076	809 9583	243 8602	920 7992	860 2663/64	233 7633/35

OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM SAT: 8:00AM-5:00PM
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tips from a women's health book

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

MANAGING one's health can and should be an organized endeavor. With prevention in mind, you can plan for the hard times so sickness can be neutralized or avoided altogether.

Although you should always consult a physician for health problems, here are some tips from a women's health book to help you make informed decisions about well-being and health.

Networking

Your immediate network is your family, close friends and medical practitioners.

- Emotional support from friends, colleagues, spouses and others can heal you. Studies have shown that a solid relationship is good medicine. Do what you can to strengthen your circle of friends and stay in touch.
- Doctor-patient relationships are important. Know who to call in an emergency. Draw up your health-care team—for example, gynecologist, general practitioner, allergist....
- Talk to your partner. Men, in particular, often refuse to discuss their health problems and would not see a doctor or have a checkup until it is almost too late.
- Knowledge is power. Learn your medical history and find out disease patterns in your family.

Magical medicine

Movement, consistent and regular, is all you need to be stronger. Include exercise in your lifestyle. Begin with something you enjoy—dancing, roller-skating, aerobics, swimming. If you're a homebody, even going up and down the stairs for 20 minutes can be good for you!

If you are overweight, walk daily for 30 minutes.

- Eat right. An iron-rich (leafy greens, egg yolks, beans, lean meat/liver), low-fat, low-sugar, low-sodium, high-fiber diet is a must. Cutting back on carbohydrates and sugar will mean some weight loss after two weeks. A loss of 5 lbs can reduce blood sugar rates while 10 lbs can lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
- Start small. Don't starve yourself. Cut back on calories slowly.
- For menopause, check out more natural remedies such as progesterone/estrogen creams and herbal medications like black cohosh and evening primrose oil. HRT (hormone-replacement therapy) is now considered unsafe.

Symptoms of the onset of menopause include hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings, irregular periods. A post-menopausal woman is one who has missed her period for one year.

Profound changes can happen when estrogen and progesterone levels are low: weight gain; dry, aging skin; urinary-tract infections; increased risk of heart disease; osteoporosis or brittle bones; and vaginal dryness.

Have a breast examination and pap smear every year. You might want to check your hormone levels through a salivary test called Aaron Life Cycles (GNC, the health care center-Dr. Victor Vesuna, tel. 7210564). Increase intake of soy products (natural sources of estrogen).

Hysterectomy is sometimes recommended by doctors for certain disorders. Consult several doctors and examine your options before undergoing surgery.

- Exercise, proper diet and quitting smoking

EMPOWERING/C3

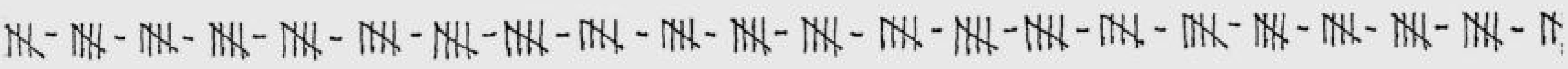
Mag Drive-Thru sa Jollibee, get a Car Litter Bag
FREE!
P250
Jollibee
Drive Thru

Imedeen is a Winner!

Imedeen has been voted the No. 1 beauty supplement in the UK by Boots customers. This accolade reflects both Imedeen's success as a leading 'internal' skincare brand and Imedeen's prominence within Boots as their top-selling beauty supplement.

Boots is the UK's leading provider of health and beauty products with over 1,400 stores nationwide. One million of their top customers were polled to ask for their positive experiences and favourite products and Imedeen was voted No. 1 in the beauty category an outstanding level of customer satisfaction backed up by excellent testimonials. One customer claimed 'Imedeen really improved my complexion as it can be very dry at times, but all the dryness cleared and my skin became radiant', while another said 'I have been taking Imedeen for years now and I can honestly say it is the best supplement I have ever used. It really has made a visible difference to my skin'.

The Award was presented to UK General Manager, Suzi Salkeld, by celebrity sports presenter, Kirsty Gallagher, at a press breakfast in London on 20th January 2004.



Lines that count. The only lines that matter for Imedeen are the votes that made it the top beauty supplement in the United Kingdom. All the other lines–wrinkles, spots and marks are made to go away.

IMEDEEN

Freckles & Blemishes
"IPL Really Works!"

"IPL really makes a big difference. After only a couple of treatments, my skin pigmentations and freckles have visibly lightened. People tell me I look younger, fresher, more beautiful. Now I'm more secure to go out without makeup."

Carmi Martin
Actress/Interior Design Consultant

NOW AT 25% DISCOUNT

You, too, can have flawless skin. Enroll from March 8-13, 2004 and get 25% discount on IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. So you can have your freckles, age spots, or spider veins erased from your face, shoulders, back, hands, or anywhere that skin imperfections show.

Call the Facial Care Centre NOW.

Per DTI-NCR Permit #0472, Series of 2004

IPL UNITS NOW AVAILABLE AT ALABANG & BINONDO

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816 1259	687 2196	372 6633	534 7701/02	842 1144	243 8138/39	920 7938	961 3404/08	233 7631
815 3121	687 2197	372 6634	717 0076	809 9583	243 8602	920 7992	860 2663/64	233 7633/35

OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM SAT: 8:00AM-5:00PM
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ADBOARD announces 2004 Officers and Directors

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines (ADBOARD) elected its new set of officers and directors for 2004, during its Annual General Membership Meeting last February 3 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The event was participated in by representatives of the 9 member-associations of the AdBoard. Cerge M. Remonde of RPN 9 was re-elected as this year's Chairman with Alvin Manacsa of ARM Casting International as his Vice Chair. Voted as AdBoard Treasurer is Raul Alvarez of PLDT, Matec Gargantiel of Jimenez-Basic Advertising as Corporate Secretary and Felipe Olarte of Philippine Daily Inquirer as PR Officer. This year's members of the board are: Khalil Khodr (Son Et Lumierre), Socky Pitargue (PC & V Communications), Miguel Ramos (Aspac Advertising), Jose Sy (Film-Ads Phils.), Paciencia Pineda (Manila Bulletin), Alden Castañeda (ABS-CBN Bctg. Corp.) Blen Fernando (Alaska Milk Corp.), Enrique Estrada (General Milling Corp.) Jacinto Puno (TBWA-Santiago Mangada Puno), Ricky Velez (Protective Systems), Ruperto Nicdao (Manila Broadcasting Co.), Hugo Perez (Admark Advertising) and Emilio Samson (Araneta Group of Companies.

With a new and dynamic team, the Advertising Industry is primed for a more productive and active year, as it fulfills the AdBoard's policy of self-regulation.

2004 OFFICERS

CERGE M. REMONDE
Chairman
Radio Philippines Network

ALVIN R. MANACSA
President/General Manager
ARM Casting International Inc.

RAUL S. ALVAREZ
AVP-Marketing Services
PLDT

MA. TERESA V. GARGANTIEL
Senior Executive Officer
Jimenez-Basic Advertsing

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP-Advertising
Philippine Daily Inquirer

MEMBER OF THE BOARD

KHALIL O. KHODR, JR.
Managing Director
Sell Co (Son et Lumierre)

SOCORRO M. PITARGUE
President
PC&V Communications

MIGUEL C. RAMOS
President
Aspac Advertising

JOSE Y. SY
President
Film-Ads Philippines

PACIENCIA M. PINEDA
EVP & Treasurer
Manila Bulletin

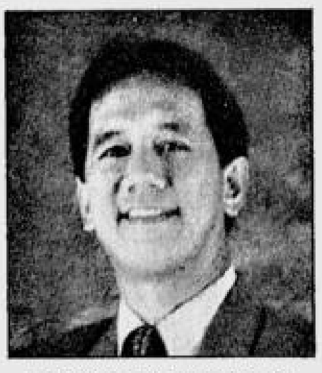
ALDEN CASTAÑEDA
VP-Research
ABS-CBN Bctg. Corp.

ENRIQUE JOSE C. ESTRADA
Business Unit Senior Manager
General Milling Corp.

JACINTO C.S. PUNO
Managing Partner
TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno

MA. BELEN M. FERNANDO
Marketing Director
Alaska Milk Corp.

ENRIQUE A. VELEZ
President
Protective Systems Technologies



RUPERTO S. NICDAO, JR.
President
Manila Broadcasting Company

HUGO T. PEREZ, JR.
President
Admark Advertising Co.

EMILIO L. SAMSON, JR.
VP for Corporate Affairs
Araneta Group of Companies

18th PAC turnover

ADBOARD Cup

ADBOARD Christmas Party

OFFICE blessing

Member Organizations

ASAP

KBP

UPMG

MORES

18th PAC Manual of Procedures

ADBOARD

ADBOARD Thanksgiving party

ALONG with the election of the 2004 AdBoard was the official turn-over of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress proceeds to the AdBoard as well as the introduction of the 18th PAC Manual of Procedure.

The 18th Philippine Advertising Congress Manual of Procedure is a comprehensive guide to organizing the Philippine Advertising Congress.

The manual is composed of three parts. The first part is a detailed report of actual 18th PAC work and procedures. The second part is a compilation of recommendations made by committee chairmen, as well as sub-committee heads. The third part gathers pertinent documents into an appendix.

The Manual Procedure was commissioned by the 18th PAC Executive Committee under the stewardship of 18th Philippine Advertising Congress Chairman Eugenio Lopez III.

The Manual of Procedure was written by Xenia Yasmin Zia Morales.

FREE NEWSPAPER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CEBU DAILY NEWS

FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF BREAKFAST VALUE MEALS

7:00 - 10:00am ONLY.

INQUIRER
Jollibee gives out FREE newspaper!
Go Pie

Participating outlets:

VISAYAS
Danao
Consolacion
Oriente
Colon
Cinerama
Sto. Niño
Cebu Robinsons
Guadalupe
Mango
Centro
Lapu-Lapu
Mactan
Briones
Countrymall
SM2
Gorordo

Bacolod Gatuslao
Bacolod Lacson
Bacolod La Salle
Bacolod Luzuriaga
Bacolod Libertad

Dumaguete

Tagbilaran Alturas
Tagbilaran Marcela

Iloilo E. Lopez
Iloilo La Paz
Iloilo Plazoleta
Iloilo SM Jaro
Kalibo Aklan

MINDANAO
Butuan J. Aquino
Valencia Bukidnon
CDO Limketkai
CDO Megacenter
CDO Cogon
CDO Gaisano Mall
CDO Divisoria
Gensan Gaisano
Marbell KCC
Cotabato Plaza
Davao Digos
Davao Gaisano Mall
Davao Bolton
Davao Matina
Davao Ilustre
Davao NCCC
Davao Tagum
Zambo Camins
Zambo Climaco
Kidapawan

PERDTI REGION VII PERMIT NO. 171 SERIES OF 2003

The manual is composed of three parts. The first part is a detailed report of actual 18th PAC work and procedures. The second part is a compilation of recommendations made by committee chairmen, as well as sub-committee heads. The third part gathers pertinent documents into an appendix.

APPRECIATION dinner

VISION

"We, the AdBoard, mindful of our duty to God, country and people, shall be recognized as an umbrella organization of the advertising industry, bonded together to promote and develop advertising as an industry and profession that contributes to economic progress. The AdBoard recognizes its commitment to protect the interests of the consumers and uphold its social responsibility through self-regulation."

MISSION

We shall promote truthful and informative advertising for the benefit of consumers and the public in general.
We shall upgrade the practice of advertising in order to develop public confidence in advertised products and services and in the credibility of advertising as an economic activity.
We shall strengthen the effectiveness of the industry's self-regulation.
We shall enhance professional relationships and to promote greater cooperation among various sectors of the industry.
We shall develop industry awareness and commitment to its social responsibilities, including the promotion of values.
We shall enhance the industry's contribution to economic progress and in nation-building.

WE PUT OURSELVES IN THEIR SHOES

At Inquirer Publications, we believe that
catering to various audiences mean
putting ourselves in their shoes.

Our newspapers show a deep understanding
of Filipino readers, giving you news, information,
and entertainment that you will find compelling and relevant.

Try them on for size. And see how our publications fit
the interests and lifestyles of your target audience.

OUR PRODUCTS:

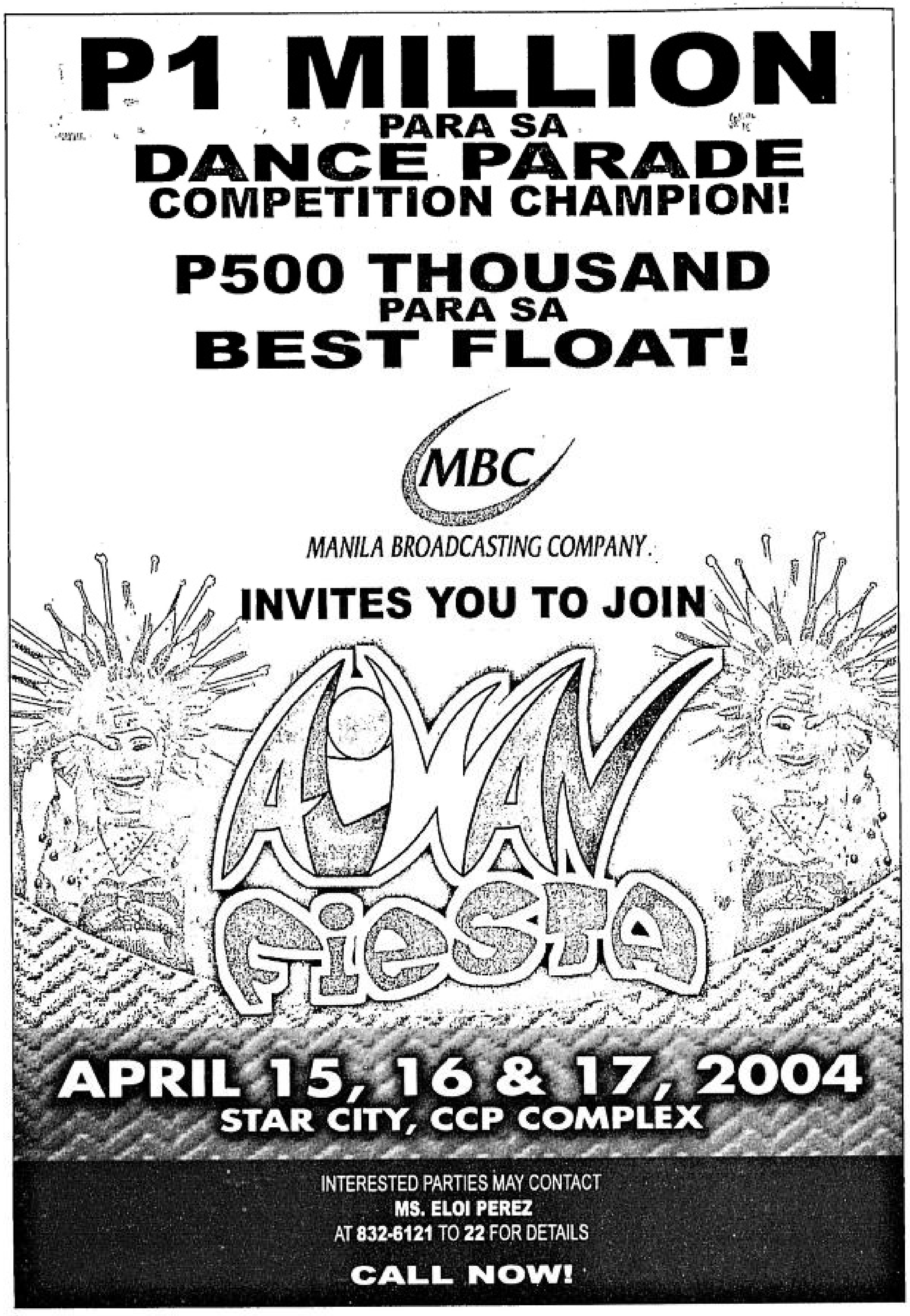
Bandera
Cebu Daily News
Tumbok
Free On the Road
South Express

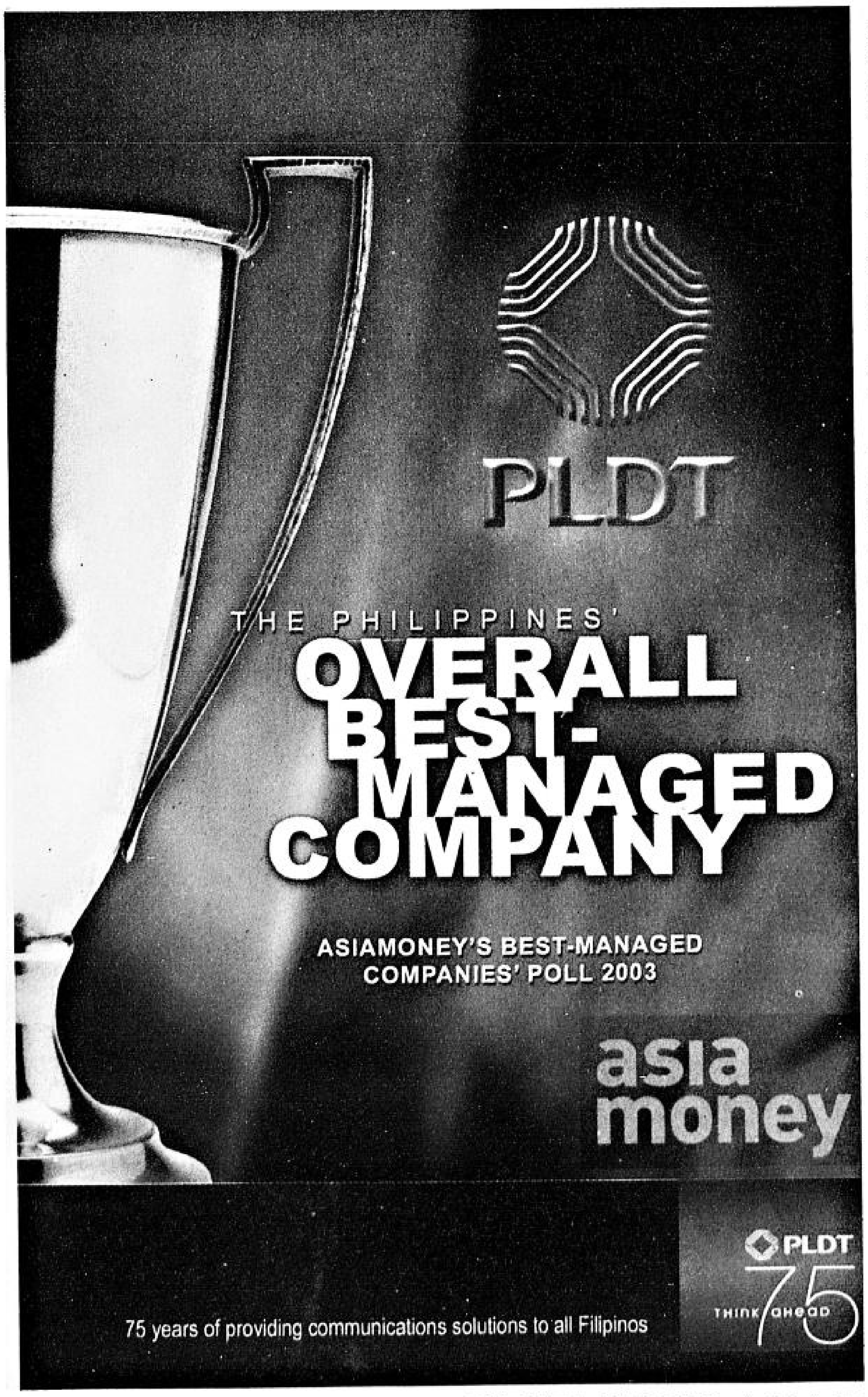
For more information, call 890-0378 or email marketing@inquirerpublications.ph

TO OUR PARTNERS IN RESPONSIBLE ADVERTISING

CONGRATULATIONS
& MORE POWER TO THE
AdBoard
ON THE INDUCTION OF
ITS OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS
FOR 2004

GMA
NETWORK


P1 MILLION
PARA SA
DANCE PARADE
COMPETITION CHAMPION!
P500 THOUSAND
PARA SA
BEST FLOAT!
MBC
MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY
INVITES YOU TO JOIN
Aliwan Fiesta
APRIL 15, 16 & 17, 2004
STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX
INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT
MS. ELOI PEREZ
AT 832-6121 TO 22 FOR DETAILS
CALL NOW!


PLDT
THE PHILIPPINES'
OVERALL BEST-MANAGED COMPANY
ASIAMONEY'S BEST-MANAGED COMPANIES' POLL 2003
asia money
PLDT
THINK ahead 75
75 years of providing communications solutions to all Filipinos

Media veteran enjoys second term as Adboard's chair

Plans to steer the organization towards more social thrusts has started

PUBLIC service and social responsibility and strengthening of the organization. These terms are not part of a political campaign, but part of the thrusts the Adboard will be focusing on this year.

Cerge M. Remonde, chair of Adboard who's enjoying a second term, said the organization will continue the programs for the industry it has started last year but it will also take on projects on social responsibility.

Being an election year, the Adboard will contribute to the voter's education program and the promotion of honest, orderly and peaceful elections, said Remonde.

In addition to Adboard's job of promoting truth in advertising and promoting the interest of advertising and media industries, I envision the Adboard being able to harness the powers of its members and steer them toward helping effect a meaningful social change."

Remonde said the Adboard will be holding the Adboard kapihan, an informal forum of leaders in the advertising industry, with more regularity. Currently the Adboard is in the process of reviewing its code and putting in place a system that will improve the efficiency of the secretariat to service the members.

The Adboard will also give emphasis on the Araw Values Awards, a project that promotes advertising with values-oriented themes.

Remonde, who is also the national chair of the Kapisanan ng Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), is a media man who rose from the ranks to occupy the highest position in the media industry in the country.

Born in Cebu, Remonde, who has a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of the Visayas, started his media career at the Cebu Bureau of Philippine News Agency. He moved to The Freeman and started writing a column. He also worked as a TV field reporter for GMA 7 Cebu.

While working, Remonde took up law in the Gullas Law School of the University of Visayas.

During the Martial Law years, Remonde moved to The Visayan Herald where he held the position of managing editor and columnist. Later he worked for the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) for its Broadcast Production and Training Center. He eventually ended up as executive director.

He transferred to Radio Station DYLA AM where he became the news director then station manager, then eventually general manager of Vimcontu Broadcasting Corp. which owns DYLA AM and other radio stations.

Remonde also became the vice president for national and international affairs of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines. He represented labor in both national and international organizations including the International Labor Organization.

He became chair of KBP's Cebu chapter for two terms and made the organization a model chapter.

Under President Gloria Macapagal's term, Remonde is currently the undersecretary and executive director of Radio Television Malacanang-Presidential Broadcast Staff. He is also the chair and chief executive officer of Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. (IBC) Channel 13 and Radio Philippine Network (RPN) Channel 9.

> Remonde also became the vice president for national and international affairs of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines. He represented labor in both national and international organizations including the International Labor Organization.

ADBOARD

Induction of the 2004 AdBoard Officers and Board of Directors

Invocation
RICKY C. ESTRADA (ADBOARD DIRECTOR)
Philippine National Anthem
Welcome Remarks and Acknowledgement of Guests
MATEC V. GARGANTIEL (ADBOARD CORPORATE SECRETARY)
Dinner
Induction of the 2004 Officer and Board of Directors
LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING (ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILS.)
Acceptance Speech of the 2004 AdBoard Chairman
Cerge M. Remonde
Introduction of Guest Speaker
Raul S. Alvarez (AdBoard Treasurer
Address of Guest Speaker
MANUEL V. PANGILINAN (CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO.
Presentation of Gift of Appreciation to the Inducting Officer & Guest Speaker
CERGE M. REMONDE AND MATEC V. GARGANTIEL
Closing Remarks
ALVIN R. MANACSA (ADBOARD VICE CHAIRMAN)
Master of Ceremonies
OSCAR T. VALENZUELA (ADBOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE